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PLAZA**



# WARRANDYTE diary

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No 459, December 2012 For the community, by the community

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2012



*Seasons Greetings  
from  
the Warrandyte Diary*

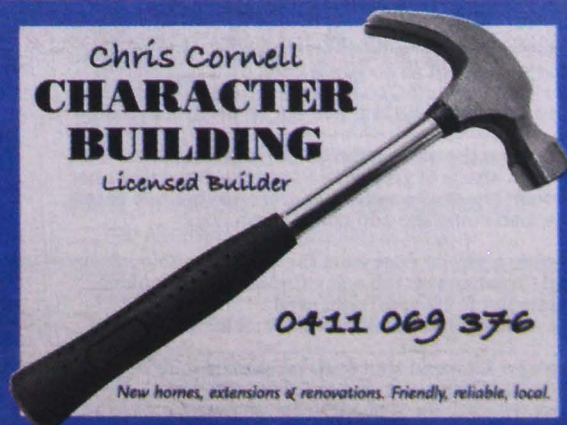
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— Voltaire

**WARRANDYTE diary**

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**OUR NEWSPAPER**

The *Warrandyte Diary* was established in 1970 as a small local newsletter. Although it has developed over the years, it has retained its strong community character, being produced mostly by volunteers with only one aim: to serve its community. Financed solely through advertising, it guards its not-for-profit, non-commercial status and its independent voice. The *Diary* carries a strong editorial bias towards the people, environment and character of the place it serves. Its monthly circulation is 4000 copies and it is available in Warrandyte, North Warrandyte, South Warrandyte, Park Orchards, Wonga Park, Warranwood, North Ringwood, Kangaroo Ground and Research.

**A SPECIAL PLACE**

Warrandyte (approximate population 8000) is situated on the Yarra River, some 27km from Melbourne. For countless ages a well-stocked hunting ground of the Wurundjeri people, in 1851 Warrandyte became the site of the first official gold discovery in Victoria. It soon established its character as a small, self-sustaining community set in a beautiful river valley. Around 1900 the miners, orchardists and tradespeople were joined by a number of young painters who were founding the Australian nationalist arts tradition. Now a commuter suburb of Melbourne, the natural beauty, community spirit and sense of independence of Warrandyte has been largely retained. This newspaper is the voice and true expression of that spirit.

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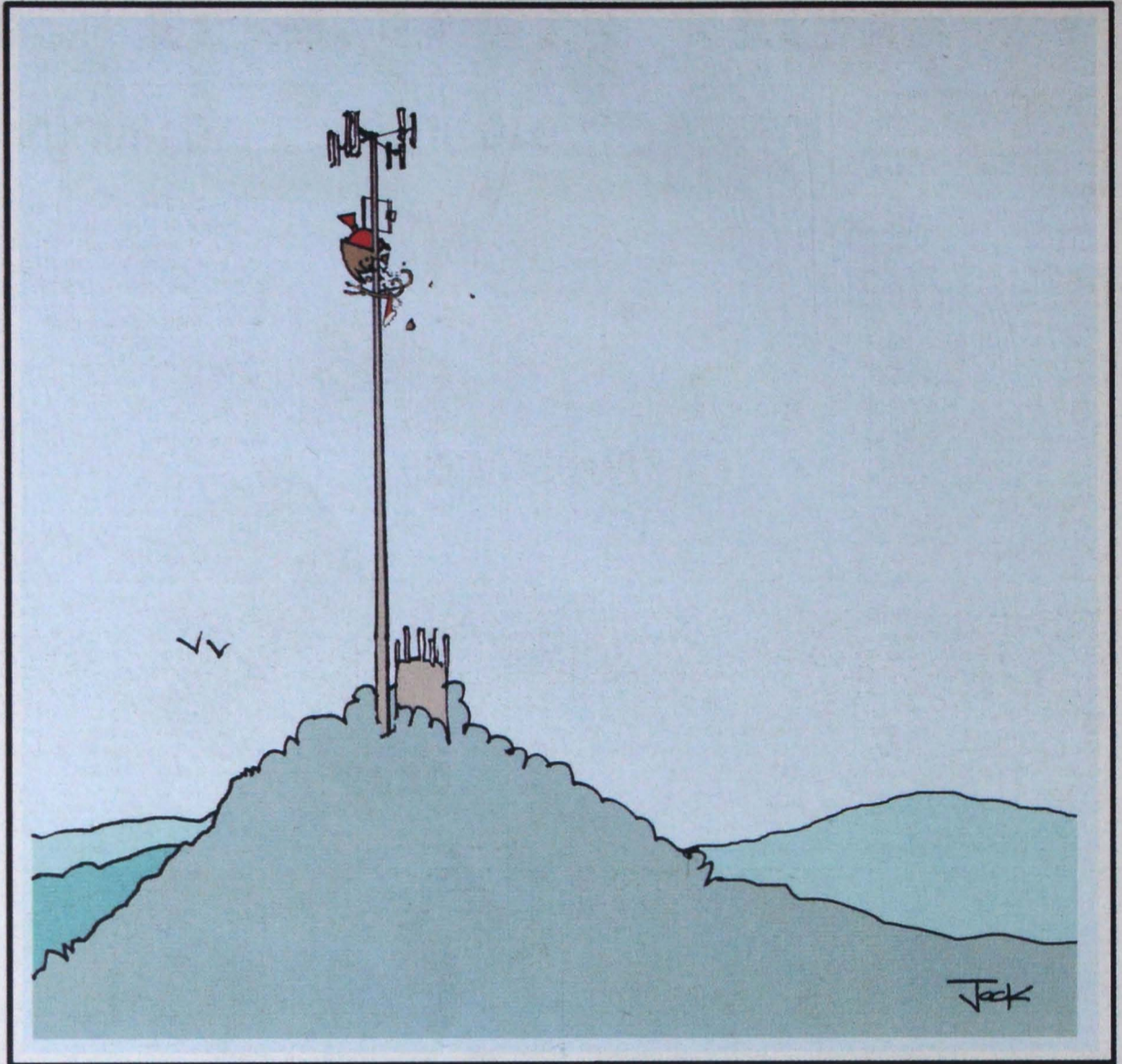
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**OVER THE HILLS**

By **JOCK MACNEISH**



**The Trots' Christmas Tail...**

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house  
 Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
 Except for one chap in a bit of a flap  
 On account of his tail being caught in a trap.

Except for the children who hadn't a clue  
 What a sugar-plum was (well I ask you, would you?)  
 Except for old Gran who couldn't remember  
 If Jesus or Santa was born in December.

Except for Narelle who was reading in bed  
 With *Fifty Shades* running amok in her head.  
 Except for her hubby who thought it was queer  
 When his wife called him Christian while licking his ear.

So what were they doing in preference to sleeping?  
 Did they hear sleigh bells or reindeers a-creeping?  
 Search in the garden for bobsled impressions?  
 I'll tell you if only you'll stop asking questions!

Cinnamon sat with her laptop aglow  
 As dozens of messages raced to and fro  
 Wholly engrossed in intense d and m's  
 With half of her 900 Facebooky friends

Briony, Julia, Kylie and Herman  
 Ellie and Kelly and Harvey and Norman.  
 Phoebe and Layla (as well as her mother)  
 Discussing evictions from last night's Big Brother.

Jasper, in common with most adolescents,  
 Was under the tree, in the dark, feeling presents.  
 The one with the handle was easy to get—  
 It's a racquet! (Or was it a butterfly net?)

There's the usual cringeworthy Target attire  
 That's no doubt as cool as a chilli on fire  
 A cricket protector, some gloves and a thigh pad  
 Which was all good and fine but he wanted an iPad!

Narelle on the other hand couldn't be brighter  
 As each shade of grey would surprise and delight her.  
 Though handcuffs and whips were not her cup of tea,  
 How bad could the odd coffee enema be?

It made a nice change from the cleaning and cooking  
 And Christian was tall and extremely good-looking.  
 Gentle but firm—masterful even;  
 Not a bit like the Christians she met at St Stephens!

Her eyes flickered shut and she started to drift,  
 All languid and warm in her thin cotton shift,  
 "Just tell me," she sighed, "what you want me to do,"  
 And reached out to find that the bastard's shot through!



living with  
The Trots

Neville had slipped down the stairs to play Santa  
 Eating the biscuits and drinking the Fanta.  
 He threw out the reindeer's leftover gnocchi  
 Then whipped up a sandwich with cheese and Bertocchi.

How lucky, he thought, *Warrandytians* are  
 Then he noticed the front door was slightly ajar.  
 Alarm bells went off in his slumberous brain  
 And he knew that his mother'd gone AWOL again.

So popping his sandwich back into the fridge  
 He jumped in the car and set off for the bridge  
 Till he caught up with Gran, in her frayed dressing gown,  
 Striding along on her way into town.

"I just had some shopping to finish," Gran said  
 As she plonked her teeth down in the glass by the bed,  
 And Neville assured her that all would be fine  
 With a couple of Benzodiazepine.

He checked on the kids with a fatherly peep  
 And saw that they'd finally fallen asleep.  
 Then headed for bed just a few minutes later,  
 Shut Narelle's book and removed her vibrator.

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house  
 Not a creature was stirring, except for a mouse  
 Who with one final yank finally broke out of jail,  
 And that, dear friends, is the end of the tail.

**ALAN CORNELL**

# When fire threatens

With summer now upon us, the CFA is urging Victorians to know the difference between Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) and Total Fire Bans (TFB).

Fire Danger Ratings help residents to know how a fire would behave if one were to start, unlike a Total Fire Ban which is a legal declaration to cease activities which may cause a fire.

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said Fire Danger Ratings are a trigger to act.

"They indicate how easily a fire can start, how intense it could burn, how difficult it will be to put out and how much damage it could cause," he said.

"The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the greater the risk to control the fire, therefore increasing the risk to lives and property.

"The ratings are all about safeguarding your own personal safety and the safety of your family, which is paramount. Everyone who lives or visits high risk areas in summer should go to [www.cfa.gov.au](http://www.cfa.gov.au) to check the Fire Danger Rating for their area every day."

They also tell people when conditions are dangerous enough to enact their Bush-

## Instant guide to fire bans and ratings



● Total Fire Bans are legal restrictions on open fires, equipment and barbecues. They limit activities that have a potential to start a fire in hot, dry or windy conditions.

● Fire Danger Ratings help you to know when conditions are dangerous enough to enact your bushfire plan. That might mean leaving the area early the night before or early in the morning of a bad day. To find out more about Fire Danger Ratings, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/firedanger](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/firedanger)

fire Survival Plan. Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as fuel loads.

Mr Ferguson said Total Fire Bans are legal restrictions designed to prevent fires from starting. He said strict penalties apply and breaches are referred to police.

"A Severe, Extreme or Code Red Fire Danger Rating on the other hand, should act as a trigger to leave early,"

he said.

The FDR system, which includes six ratings from low/moderate to Code Red, helps you to know when the conditions are dangerous enough to prompt you to leave.

Leaving early before a fire has even started is the only way to guarantee your family's safety on a bad day.

"Your plan needs to cover what you will do and where and when you will go, well before there are any signs of fire."

Mr Ferguson said most

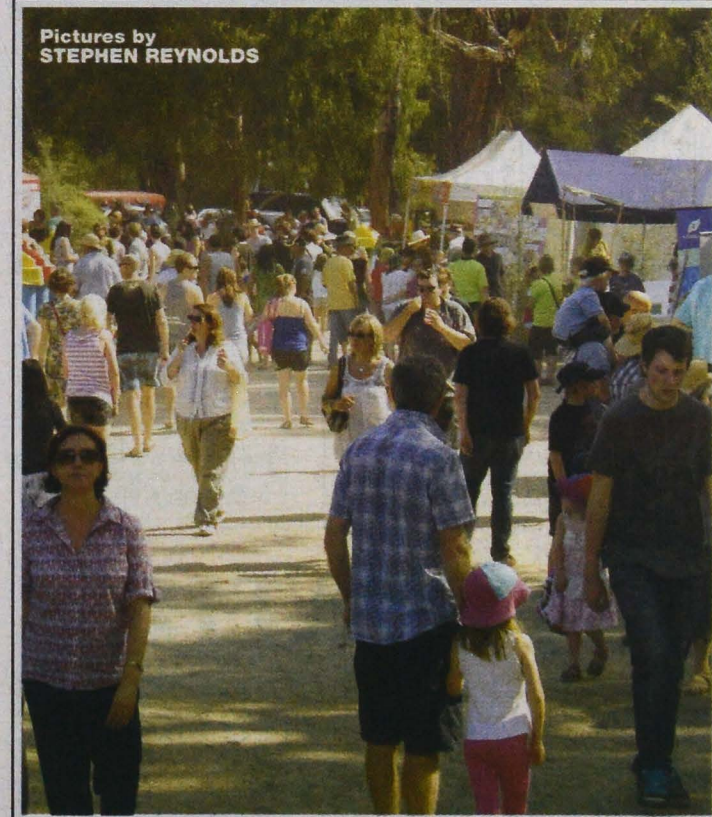
people in high-risk bushfire areas know that a Code Red rating means they should leave that morning or the night before.

"But not as many of us are aware that leaving early on Severe or Extreme days should also be a serious consideration, particularly if your house is not well-prepared or if you have children in your care," he said.

● To find out the daily Fire Danger Rating or Total Fire Ban status, go to: [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 240 667.



Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS



## Warrandyte Festival salutes friends and neighbours

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

Next year's Warrandyte Village Festival—to be held over the weekend of March 22, 23 and 24—will be a celebration, not just of the place but of the people who make it great.

"Celebrating Friends and Neighbours" is the theme for 2013.

The "monarchs chosen" to exemplify it—Geoff and Christine Taylor—are a couple whose longstanding work and commitment in the town is well known and appreciated.

Geoff Taylor has been a former principal of Warranwood Primary School and a strong supporter of junior cricket in Warrandyte, managing and coaching a number of teams. His voluntary efforts include sterling work with the Lions Club over many years, and more recently with Information Warrandyte.

Friday night's illustrious Battle of the Bands is scheduled to kick off proceedings as usual, although next year will be a case of "same battle, different battle station".

Due to the renovation of the Community Centre, this event will take

place outdoors on the Main Stage at Stiggants Reserve at around 6.30pm. Local bands can apply by the end of December via email to [music@warrandytefestival.org](mailto:music@warrandytefestival.org). Young people who are seeking experience in live music can contact the organisers if they would like to help out before or during the event.

The Battle of the Bands is a smoke, drug and alcohol free event with food and drinks available for purchase on the night. As always, entry is free.

If you're looking for somewhere to go on Friday night with a little less volume, the 29th Warrandyte/Donvale Rotary Art Show gala champagne opening could be just the thing.

This event, which includes supper and refreshments, launches the weekend-long Art Show at the Warrandyte Community Church from 7pm to 11pm, on Friday, March 22. A "gala" ticket costs \$25.

The show runs right across the weekend, opening 10am to 5pm Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Door entry over the weekend is \$5, with students' entry free.

Once again, a wide variety of music will issue forth from both the Main Stage and River Stage across the weekend. Bands such as Animaux, Tesky Brothers and other favourites are set to entertain night time audiences.

Bring along a picnic and settle down for a fun night of fine music. Limited food stalls will be available.

Craft and produce market stalls will continue to offer home grown, hand-made items. Art and craft market stall applications are open until February 28, 2013. The cost is \$75 for the weekend or \$45 for a single day.

Please visit the website for application details. Forms can be downloaded at [www.warrandytefestival.org](http://www.warrandytefestival.org).

Food stalls are fully booked, however people are welcome to email [contact@warrandytefestival.org](mailto:contact@warrandytefestival.org) to go on a waiting list.

● For an update on all festival happenings before and during the event, check out the festival facebook site at [www.facebook.com/warrandyte-festival](http://www.facebook.com/warrandyte-festival).

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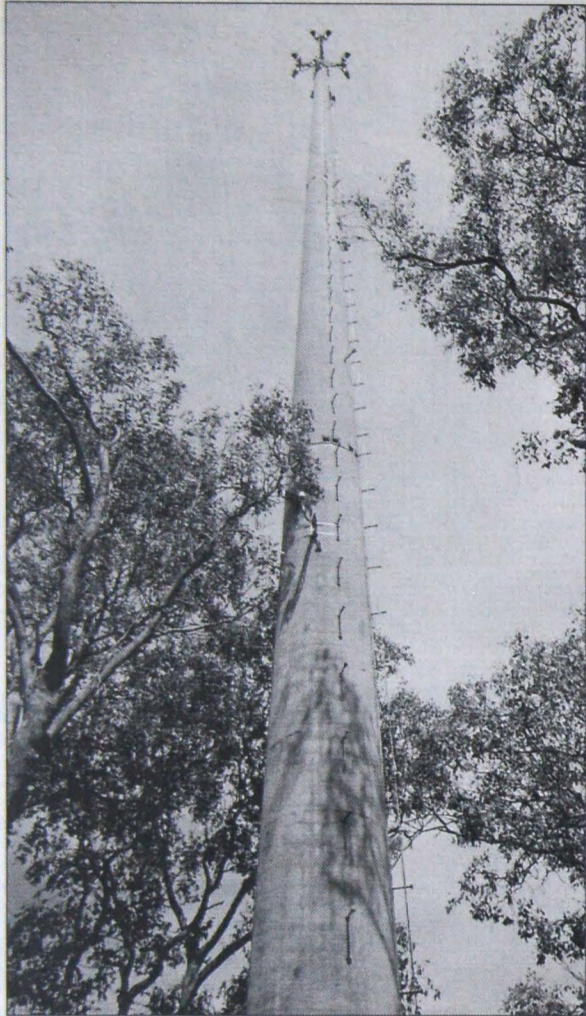
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dear diary

Letters to the *Diary* on local topics are welcome. They may be edited for reasons of style, length or legality.

# Residents don't like Blooms Road smart meter tower



Communication tower on Growlers Hill. (Picture by Stephen Reynolds)

Regarding the huge and ugly phone tower that has been erected on the water tank site in Blooms Road and is now spoiling the skyline. When the sunrise is behind it is very ugly.

Why does it need to be so high?

Our family took an active role in recent protests against more phone towers in Warrandyte, but it seems this one has been allowed to ruin the reason we came here!

It saddens me greatly that this eyesore has been installed under the legislation governing essential services, and yet it adds nothing to the community except allowing the use of smart electricity meters to be read remotely without a human being employed to visit properties. We are losing the beauty of Warrandyte only to allow SP Ausnet to profit. It's a case of "can't see it from my house".

Council needs to challenge this! Take a stand and challenge this stupid legislation! Toughen up Nillumbik and Manningham and show us you can take control of your own backyard!

Our community should be outraged—as I am. What next? More of these towers wherever they like? I am totally disgusted by this loophole and would urge everyone to take a stand and stop this!

Mark Curtis & Family  
North Warrandyte

# Bushfire plan applauded

I applaud the WCA and the wonderful work they have done with their Bushfire Readiness survey.

With a number of mild seasons behind us we must never become complacent. It is vital that all residents have a bushfire survival plan which I urge you to develop with the best being to leave early. Remember, nobody ever died by leaving early.

Please also consider vulnerable people in your neighbourhood, what you can do to look after them in an emergency and also alert council.

My most important message is "don't wait until a fire is around the corner", when roads will be congested with traffic, fire vehicles, smoke, etc., and you may not be able to get out.

Also, whilst we have Neighbourhood Safer Places of Last Resort, they should not be part of your plan. They are there for when your plan fails!

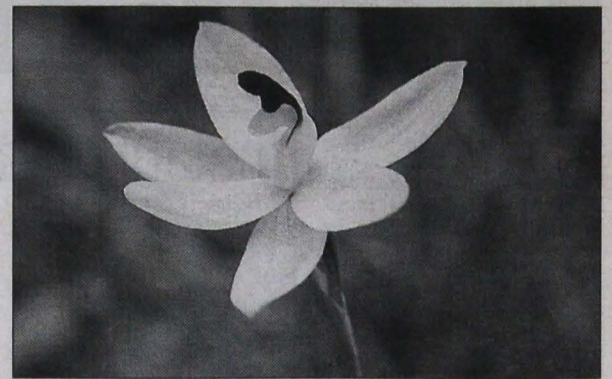
Let's hope we get through this summer without incident and be thankful to our volunteer CFA and SES members who give up so much of their time and put their lives at risk for our community.

Cr Meg Downie  
Chair Manningham  
Emergency Management  
Planning Committee



Meg Downie

# Wildflower concerns



I am writing to express my concern over our precious Wildflower Reserve at Tindals Road. I am a fifth generation member of one of Warrandyte's oldest pioneering families.

The sanctuary has been a very special place to visit for me throughout my life. As a teacher at Warrandyte Primary School in the 70s I took great delight in explaining to my Preps the importance of our Australian orchids. We could admire them but not pick them because of their fragility in terms of scarcity.

I am very alarmed to see evidence of "burn-offs" within

the sanctuary. These orchids do not often recover after fire as the bulbs can be burnt and destroyed. The Spider Orchids, Donkey Orchids, Wax-Lip Orchids and Greenhoods have all suffered with significant loss of numbers. Some have been replaced by an overgrowth of fire-stimulated, shading, understorey shrubs.

Could the local council please stop these burnings in order to preserve what is left of our precious local treasures.

Margaret White  
East Doncaster

# Meg offers to help us

I am delighted that the residents of Mullum Mullum have honoured me once more to represent them as one of the Mullum Mullum ward councillors. Thank you!

Whilst I don't live in Warrandyte I do live in a low-density area and understand the importance of this and the Green Wedge. I regularly visit the town and I have always had an active role in representing your needs at the council table. I have developed strong

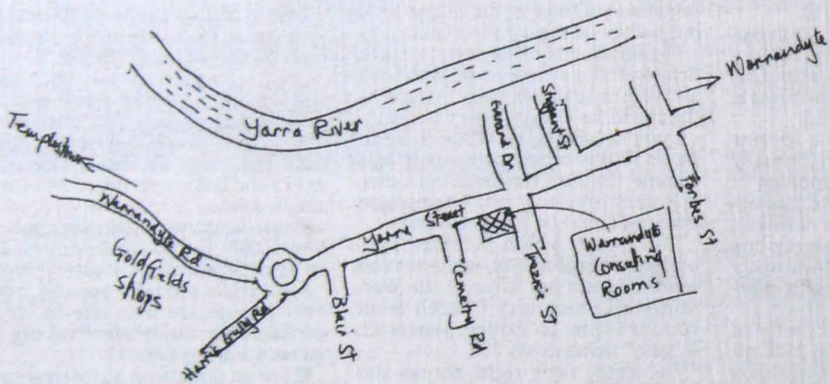
links with volunteer groups, sporting clubs, churches, the CFA, Neighbourhood House, local businesses, etc.

I am always available on 0428 502 839 or meg.downie@manningham.vic.gov.au. I will respond promptly to any residents' request. Please keep me informed. Whilst I may not always be able to deliver, I do promise that I will listen and advocate on your behalf.

Meg Downie

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**FROM JULIE AND  
STAFF AT  
QUINTON'S**

**QUINTON'S SUPA IGA** *How the locals like it.*

402 WARRANDYTE RD, WARRANDYTE

PH: 9844-3089

# Why we've copped this tower

By DAVID HOGG

It stands a silent sentinel on Growlers Hill above Blooms Road in North Warrandyte; visible from many parts of the township. Unannounced and erected in a single day last month. Hated by some, observed by many. But what does it do? Why is it there?

It has been erected by SP-Ausnet as part of the state government mandated roll-out of smart meters for electricity.

SP-Ausnet is one of five "distributors" in Victoria responsible for the poles, wires and meters which distribute electricity to our homes. Each distributor has a monopoly in its own area. SP-Ausnet covers the eastern half of Victoria and their area includes Warrandyte.

As consumers we rarely communicate with the distributor. Instead we choose our "retailer", and communicate with them. There are more than a dozen retailers in Victoria offering electricity to consumers across the state and across all distributors' regions. Each retailer offers a confusing array of tariffs, clouded in smoke-and-mirrors pricing not understood by most, and advertised more in terms of "discounts" and "savings" rather than actual prices! SP-Ausnet reads our meter and passes this information along to our retailer, who then sends us a bill.

The smart meter in our home needs to communicate with the distributor. SP-Ausnet has decided to implement their solution using a technology similar to that used for mobile phones. They have erected what they call a "monopole". Perhaps we'd expect this from a monopoly! It has eight vertical antennae at the top like the familiar mobile phone towers. These will communicate with the smart meter in every home. When the system is tested and operational, the meter, which is accumulating usage statistics in half-hour blocks, makes

the equivalent of a phone call about four times a day to transfer this data to the tower. Equally, the tower can call up any meter and reprogram it whenever necessary.

Once the information is obtained by the tower, it has to be relayed to the distributor's computer systems. The tower is also part of a half-state-wide network of towers, some of which also relay this data.

Underneath the eight local antennae are two microwave dishes. One of these points towards North Ringwood which is the next point along the network taking the data towards the end computer. The other points to Healesville and relays the data obtained from there and other points beyond.

Because the tower is huge, it gives the impression of being very powerful. This is not the case. It is huge because it has to be very tall. Tall enough to have line-of-sight to Healesville and North Ringwood and reach most houses in the Warrandyte area, although the latter can be done without direct line-of-sight.

Extra radiation from the new tower will be equivalent to just one more carrier adding to the systems already installed on the water towers there by Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

SP-Ausnet claim that the maximum RF EME radiation from the tower is less than 1 per cent of the allowable ARPANSA General Public Exposure limit (Google it!). In terms of radiation from the meter in your home, consider your meter as being the equivalent of a mobile phone in your meter box, turned on but not actually being used for a call, and receiving or sending four text messages a day.

The system in North Warrandyte will undergo completion of installation and testing in December, and will go live early in 2013, following which consumers will have access to their meter data online via SP-Ausnet's myHomeEnergy

portal.

So what are the advantages of the system? No need for a meter reader to call quarterly. No more estimated accounts because the meter reader could not gain access. The consumer will be able to log in by computer through the distributor's portal and see his consumption readings by the half-hour.

The meter will be able to send an alert if it goes faulty or if the power fails allowing quicker identification and response. The distributor can change meter registers to accumulate data by differing times of day to enable retailers to create even more time/price changes; this is called "flexible pricing". Meters can be reprogrammed remotely if the consumer installs solar or wind power and exports this to the grid. Meters will know when daylight saving is in. Power can be disconnected or reconnected remotely when a property changes owners or tenants.

So now you know how it works. Convinced? No? Nor am I. The benefits appear to accrue more to the distributor than to the consumer, and at what enormous cost? If we find it difficult to understand electricity pricing now, and WarrandyteCAN described this area as a "minefield" earlier this year when they tried but failed to negotiate a competitive bulk-buy for Warrandyte residents, then how will we understand "flexible pricing" when that further complicates the issue?

Could there have been better consultation and information? Of course. Why was the smart meter mandated by state government for the whole of Victoria, but each distributor then allowed to implement it differently and without local planning constraints? When were the environmental aspects considered? There are much better ways in which this could have been done... but too late now; it's in and we're stuck with it.

Pictures by STEPHEN REYNOLDS

## Residents 'up in arms' over communications tower

Warrandyte Community Association has received numerous complaints from residents who are up in arms over the construction of the 40 metre high SP AusNet "smart meter" pole on Growler's Hill.

"It's not just residents of Blooms Road who are right next door, but from all over. Its visible from Ringwood Road," said WCA president Dick Davies.

"Residents' concerns are that its an environmental disaster: ugly, unnecessary and installed overnight with little

or misleading information to nearby households.

"It won't be long before more antennae are hanging off the pole," he said.

WCA is aware that the tower is classified as "essential infrastructure" under the "Green Agenda" of both commonwealth and state legislation.

As such, it does not require planning permission. Local councils are not responsible. They have no responsibility, powers or controls and do not receive timely information on construction.

"Nevertheless, it is outrageous that without anything like adequate community consultation such a construction can go up, virtually overnight," Mr Davies said.

"Whilst it is classified as 'essential infrastructure', its commercial purpose appears to be to install smart meters with a flexible pricing policy which shifts the business risk from company to consumer.

"An alternative could have been to transmit along the existing power network which the smart meters are connected to anyway. This possibility and other alternatives were not canvassed in Warrandyte."

Mr Davies said that Warrandyte residents were getting fed up with the stream of badly communicated planning initiatives which threatened the environment and heritage of Warrandyte.

● You can call Mr Davies on 03 9844 4686 or 0413 753 622.



**CLYDE & OCKER**



"Our electricity meters are now being read by a huge pole, Ock."  
"The previous bloke was a small Italian, Clyde!"

# Community banking pays local dividends

By MICHELLE PINI

The recent Warrandyte Community Bank Branch annual general meeting was more of a celebration of community achievements than a conventional AGM.

Individuals and community groups took their turn at the podium to receive supporting grants and share their unique stories of civic participation with the audience.

Bank chairman, Sarah Wrigley described the evening as, "My favourite night of the year."

Around \$250,000 was distributed to 50 community beneficiaries including kindergartens, schools, emergency services, church groups, sports clubs and various arts and charity organizations.

It included a grant to bind all the editions of the Warrandyte Diary into a set of historical volumes. Grants and sponsor-

ships awarded to Warrandyte and surrounding communities now total almost \$1million since the bank opened its doors in 2003.

The parade of amazing accomplishments and philanthropic community goals included school kitchen gardens, cures for brain tumours and self-esteem building for young people.

It was both inspiring and humbling for all who attended and the mood began to reflect pride in the scale of civic involvement among Warrandyte citizens. One non-Warrandyte beneficiary said, "The sense of community feeling is amazing—Warrandyte must be an amazing place to live!"

Recipients of major grants included Manningham YMCA Youth & Community Services, Christmas Hills Fire Brigade, Warrandyte High School and the Warrandyte Reserve Pa-

vilion upgrade.

Christmas Hills Rural Fire Brigade member, Peter Mildenhall indicated the grant will help provide improved water provision, car parking and safety fencing at the fire station in the Bend of Islands.

Youth Services Coordinator for Manningham YMCA, Chloe Godau said the grant will be used to continue programs and events including competitions, sporting tours, camps, training and development. Ms Godau explained that as a result, young people are able to develop a sense of belonging and community as well as self-esteem building and skills development.

"We have around 40 unique young people on average per month and 500 plus connections every year," she said.

A fully franked dividend of 12 cents per share was paid to shareholders, reflecting

overall growth for the Warrandyte branch.

Ms Wrigley said the grants were a direct result of the community's support of its own banking establishment and the flow-on effect was profit coming back into the community that wasn't there before.

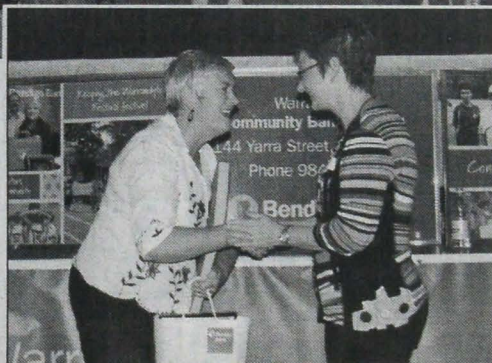
Indicating that the branch currently held only five per cent of Warrandyte mortgages, Ms Wrigley explained: "If only half of that remaining 95 percent of home owners chose to switch their mortgages, credit cards and insurances, that would mean more profit and a bigger grants and sponsorships pool to feed back to Warrandyte and surrounds."

Ms Wrigley focused on the bank's role in building significant community infrastructure and added: "If you don't bank at WCB, I think you're nuts!"



Winners: Community volunteers gather to receive largesse at the Warrandyte Community Bank's annual general meeting.

Inset: Diary staffer Briony Bottarelli receives a grant, enabling the entire set of issues to be bound into volumes.



## Cops on bikes

By BRIANNA PIAZZA

Locals can expect to see more police out and about as they take to their bikes to patrol Warrandyte.

The Warrandyte bike patrol is enabling police to more easily cover Warrandyte's reserves, pathways and other places that can be difficult to access via car.

The patrol kicked off last month, and proved to be a success straightaway.

"The main focus of the bike patrol is maintaining public order in public places, but then there is also pulling over cars and I managed to get a drink driver on the first day," Leading Senior Constable Chris Hughes said. "It was the fifth car I pulled over."

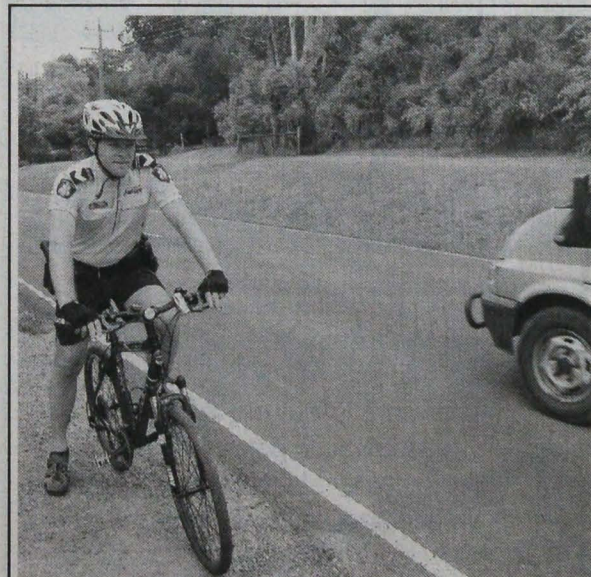
He says this incident should

serve as a warning to all motorists that anybody could be breath-tested at anytime, anywhere.

Sen-Constable Hughes has done bike patrols in Nunawading for several years, and says he helped get the bike patrol up and running here because it is ideal for suburbs like Warrandyte.

"I've been doing it for about 12 years, so I just saw an opportunity there that the bike patrol would be ideal for the paths, horse trails, reserves and all the places in Warrandyte where it's harder to get a vehicle in," he said.

Sen-Constable Hughes has been in the police force for 24 years and started at the Warrandyte station just over a month ago.




On patrol: Sen-Constable Chris Hughes checks out traffic in Yarra Street. (Picture by Brianna Piazza)



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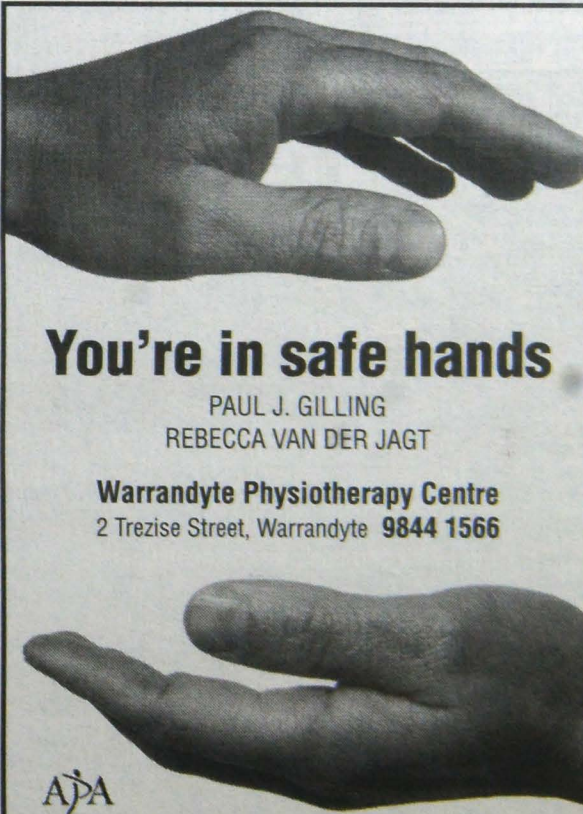


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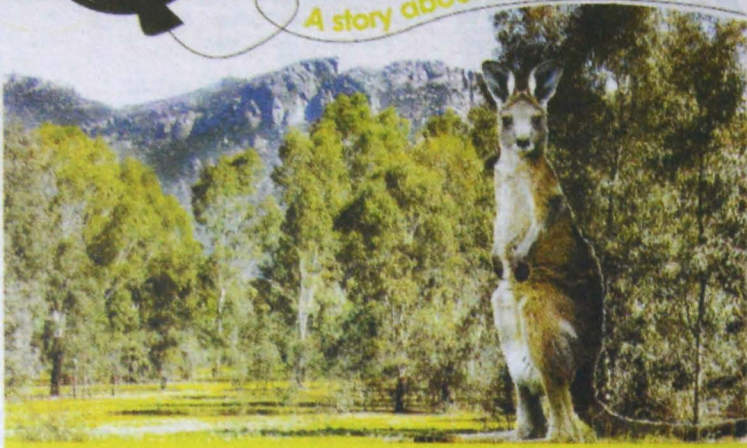
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# JOSH SAVES JOE-JOE

A story about wildlife rescue

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be distributed to wildlife carers in The Grampians region to support wildlife rehabilitation.



Alison White and Jan Uddicul

## Former Diary staffer helps create wildlife rescue book

Jan Liddicut, a former *Diary* editor, has collaborated on a unique new children's book entitled *Josh Saves Joe-Joe*.

With Alison White, Jan has written a story detailing what should happen when injured wildlife are found in the bush and explaining the important work of wildlife carers who shelter and rehabilitate rescued wildlife.

The authors met in Warrandyte 30 years ago when they both supported the Warrandyte Environment League in its quest to preserve local bushland areas.

Ms White said she is worried for the future of wildlife carers in Victoria because of the lack of government funding for their work.

"Wildlife carers provide an important service to all communities and especially to our

native wildlife," she told the *Diary*. "Wildlife shelters need community support to continue their work."

Jan Liddicut described wildlife carers as "the unsung heroes of the Australian bush".

"Caring for injured animals and birds can be an around-the-clock task, and many of them go to normal jobs during the day. Their work is in great demand, especially after bushfires like Black Saturday," she said. Road accidents and other incidents provide dedicated work for carers all the year.

"When you live in bushland areas it is common to come across sick or injured and dying animals," Ms White said.

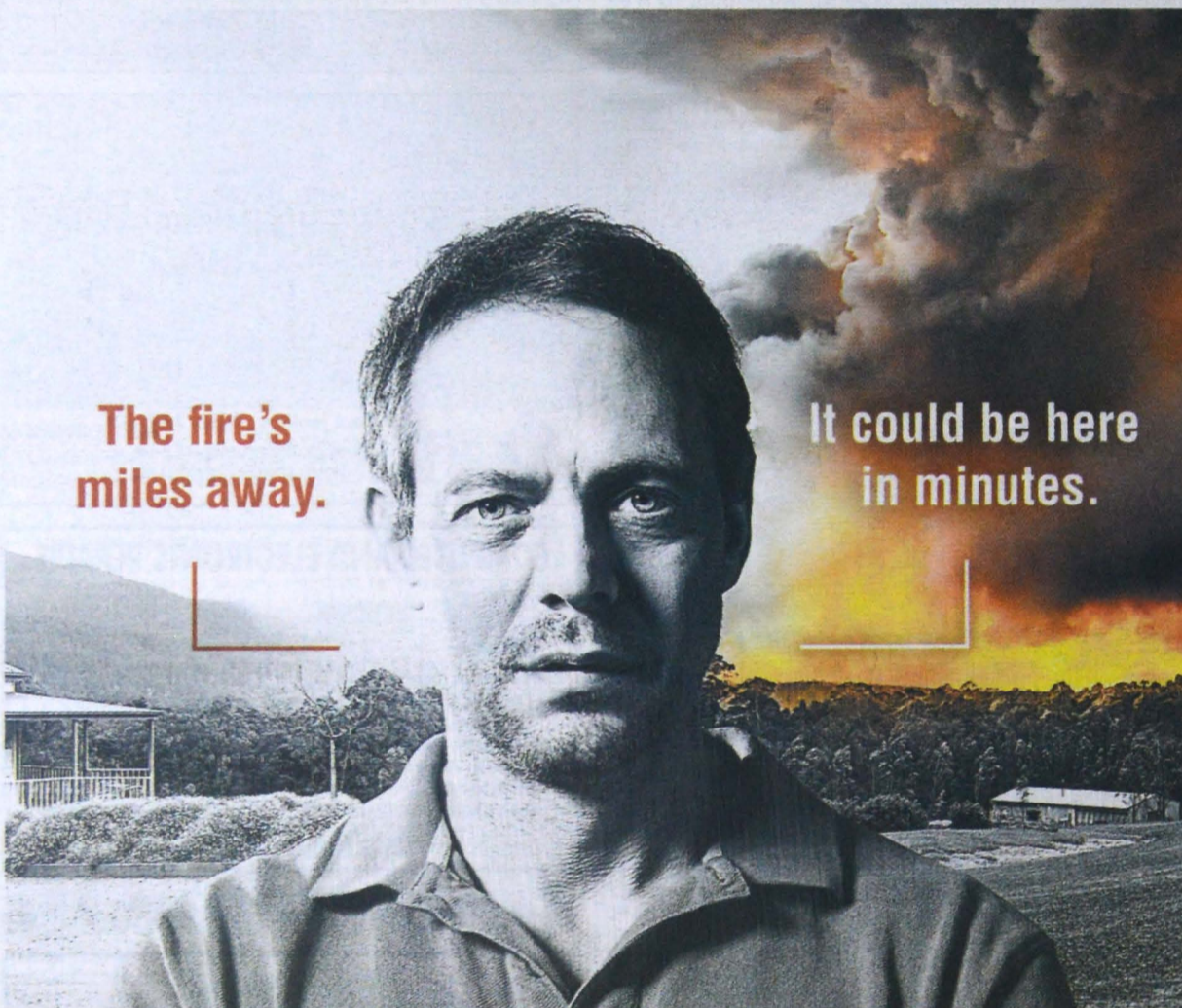
Vicki Stevens is one of the wildlife carers in the Grampians who will benefit from the sales of the book.

"When people come across an injured kangaroo, they often feed the joey and they die if given the wrong food," Miss Stevens said.

"We hope that through the book children will grow up knowing what to do when they find sick or injured animals and where they can get help."

Published by Grampians Wildlife Carers Fund Inc, *Josh Saves Joe-Joe*, was sponsored by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority. Wildlife carers in the Grampians will benefit from sales of the book.

● *Josh Saves Joe-Joe* can be ordered in time for Christmas through [www.wartook.vic.au/wildlifecare](http://www.wartook.vic.au/wildlifecare) for \$10 a copy, plus postage and handling. More information from Alison White on 0413 458 056 or Jan Liddicut on 0409 336 067.



The fire's miles away.

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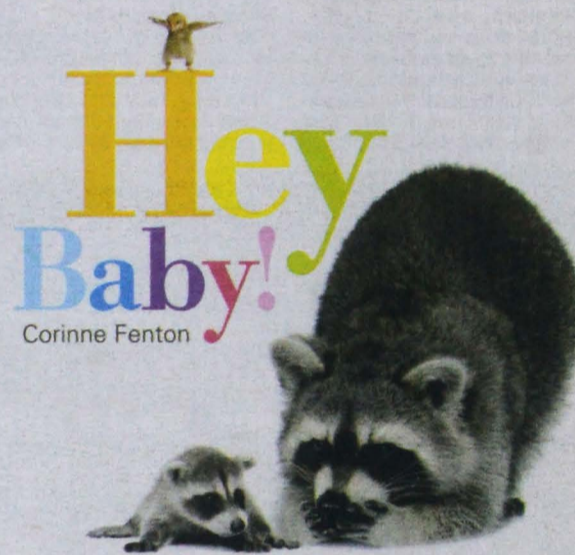
**Plan to leave early:**

- ✓ Talk to everyone you live with so you all know when you're going to leave and where you're going to go if a fire starts.
- ✓ Pack a relocation kit with important documents and essential items.
- ✓ On high-risk days, check Fire Danger Ratings and fire warnings on the CFA website and listen to local radio.

Don't wait and hope for the best. Visit the CFA website to find out how you can be FireReady.

Plan to leave early visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) call 1800 240 667

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### Corinne's new book greets baby

Local poet and children's author Corinne King has just released a new book, entitled *Hey Baby!*

A recent review said: "What a delightful picture book this is. Speaking directly to a new born baby, this love letter reminds the child that there is nobody quite like him/her, stated in simple text which will withstand multiple re-

readings. "The text is supported by beautiful baby animal photographs which will captivate young viewers and also delight adult readers. Older children will also enjoy the message of uniqueness and unconditional love."

● Go to [www.corinnefenton.com](http://www.corinnefenton.com) for further information.

WARRANDYTE

# diary

IMPORTANT!  
NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Diary's current email address is now:  
[info@warrandytediary.com.au](mailto:info@warrandytediary.com.au)

Mail sent to our old address:  
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is now being returned to sender:  
"Email account does not exist".



# Court disqualifies council candidate

By **CHERIE MOSELEN**

The council election "debacle" has moved one stage closer to finality.

The Municipal Electoral Tribunal vindicated a claim earlier this month by former mayor Bob Beynon that the Local Government Act had been breached during recent Manningham council elections.

Mr Beynon lodged his complaint after discovering an ineligible candidate had been included on the ballot for the Mullum Mullum ward.

After hearing evidence from both Mr Beynon and the Victorian Electoral Commission, the sitting magistrate ruled that opposing candidate David Muscat—who had been convicted of assault charges last year, making it illegal for him to contest local council elections for up to seven years—would be disqualified.

According to the VEC's in-

terpretation of the act, Mr Muscat's primary votes would now be excluded and his preferences two through 15, redistributed.

"Firstly, excluding Mr Muscat's primary votes won't satisfy the democratic rights of the 531 people who voted for him—votes which are now wasted," Mr Beynon told the *Diary*.

"Secondly, redistributing his preferences doesn't add up if disqualification means being completely eliminated from the field. The way I see it, Mr Muscat's primary vote is still in play if his preferences, which should enjoy no value, still have a retrospective effect."

Mr Beynon said the act is "flawed" because it does not empower the VEC to remove a dishonest candidate from the ballot, and makes it incumbent on the applicant to stick to the regulations.

Warrandyte resident candi-

date Michelle Pini, who had attached her own complaint to that of Mr Beynon, also attended the hearing.

Mrs Pini commented on the VEC's proposal, which she believes does not confront the issue of disproportionate influence affected by Mr Muscat's inclusion.

"There is no way to gauge the true flow-on of individual preferences had this illegal candidate not been factored into the voting equation," Mrs Pini said.

"Given that no candidate was elected solely on primary votes, the distribution of preferences was important in the final elected combination," Mrs Pini said.

"Only a bi-election now would constitute a fair result."

It is usual practice after an election for the state government to review the election process.

Mrs Pini hoped this "deba-

cle" would encourage recommendations to prevent such incidents from corrupting future elections.

"There needs to be a better system than the 'honesty box' to stop candidates running if they do not meet VEC regulations," she said.

"If candidates had to undergo a national police check, Mr Muscat could never have got that far.

"People have to obtain a check before they can serve sandwiches in a school canteen, so surely it's not too much to require election candidates, who are nominating for a position of some public trust, to do the same."

At the close of the hearing, the VEC was ordered to provide Mr Beynon with a copy of the count, including redistributed preferences.

A final verdict from the magistrate, who does have the power to void an election, is still forthcoming.

# SES saves the day (and the night)

By **MICHELLE PINI**

Doncaster SES volunteer, Sue Whitten has worn the orange uniform for 18 years, serving on the front line for many and, more recently, as Community Education Officer.

"Although people from all walks of life become involved, personal experience is often a catalyst for volunteering," Sue said. Her father was also an SES volunteer.

The State Emergency Service is the key response agency for floods, windstorms, earthquakes and tsunamis and provides support to Victoria Police, CFA and other emergency services with search and rescue activities.

There are also occasional, light-hearted duties such as the Warrandyte Festival Duck Race.

Sue warns: "A lot of people think they will never need our help but Manningham is flood prone and most areas have a great number of trees." The SES thus recommends taking steps to avoid needing their assistance, such as keeping gutters clear, roofs in good repair, overhanging trees trimmed and outdoor furniture secure during storms.

Whilst there are sometimes false alarms, the opposite is also true. Sue recalls one request from a Warrandyte family who claimed to have "a bit of a tree" on their roof. The call was received at the end of a huge storm that had lasted 24 hours. SES arrived to find a massive gum tree had completely smashed an



River rescue: SES volunteers take to the water. (Picture by Richard Brown)

entire section of the house. There was nothing even SES could do.

A crane was promptly ordered only to find that it was not big enough for the enormity of the tree and an even bigger crane was required. "The family clearly had the most damaged property in Manningham but waited a full 24 hours before calling as they did not want to bother us!" Sue said.

Volunteers undergo an intensive six-month training period, receiving instruction in emergency related activities. This is followed by weekly training sessions, "on

call" duty seven days of every month, as well as a "duty officer", responsibility every 12 to 15 weeks.

Volunteers are also required to meet competency levels on an ongoing basis. Being "on call" means being available 24 hours a day. Sue explains: "A common public misconception is that we are paid but we actually have to miss work to attend emergencies."

SES is always looking for new volunteers and although the job can be tough with high levels of responsibility, there are also rewards to "wearing the orange" such as learning new skills, forming

friendships and the personal satisfaction of contributing to the community.

"You become part of the SES family. It's exciting and the most rewarding thing is that every time we do something, we are making a difference. I am constantly amazed that even in times of huge trauma and devastation, people are always demonstrating their appreciation by fussing after us or offering us food—that always sticks in my mind."

• For flood or storm emergency assistance phone 132 500. To volunteer or make a donation, contact Doncaster SES on 9846 5098.



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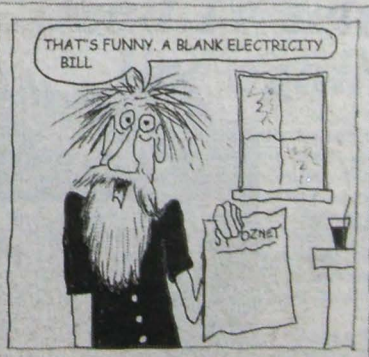
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## CYRIL

By **PAUL WILLIAMS**



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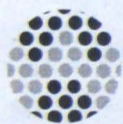
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WCA has an active committee of management elected annually by the membership. It meets monthly and holds public meetings and forums. We encourage members to participate and be active in community affairs.

### Warrandyte Community Association

- Promotes all aspects of community life
- Defends the character and heritage of the township
- Protects the environment
- Protects the Green Wedge
- Promotes sporting, educational and cultural activities
- Defends and enhances community assets



### Warrandyte Community Association

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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Address: .....    Address: .....

Tel: .....    Tel: .....

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Please forward completed form to: Warrandyte Community Association  
P.O. Box 75, Warrandyte 3113

# Village 'bomb site' in a good cause



**Gutted:** Work continues at the Warrandyte Community Centre in Yarra Street. Scheduled to be completed by the middle of next year, the project will include a fully equipped and staffed branch library and a public hall, relocated to the upper floor fronting Yarra Street. The *Diary*, Neighbourhood House and Information Warrandyte will all be returning to refurbished and relocated premises within the centre. The central staircase will be replaced by a lift. According to Manningham council, demolition work has finished and the building works are now under way.



Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**

# A Grand plan

By **BRIANNA PIAZZA**

Locals will start to notice many changes at the Warrandyte Grand Hotel during the coming months: new owners and chefs and a new manager are working around the clock to make our town's pub an iconic feature of Warrandyte.

Local owners Greg Kennedy, Steve Graham and Steve's son Matthew took over the pub last month because they wanted to enjoy great food closer to home.

"The opportunity came along and we said we could have a crack at this," Greg Kennedy said.

"It's a lovely old building and it has a lot of character about it with the trees and the river right across the road—they just don't come like this that often."

They told the *Diary* that locals would start to see external changes very quickly, as painting has already begun and a state of the art \$700,000 kitchen is underway.

"You can't run a good food pub without a good kitchen," Greg, who is captain of the South Warrandyte Fire Brigade, told the *Diary*.

"We are just passionate about having a place where there is great food available and we want to make it a friendly place for people to come."

They also let the *Diary* in on a few plans to use the upstairs bar more and have customers dining on the upstairs balcony once renovations are complete.

A new bar menu is also on the table, thanks to chefs Sam Pinzone and Stewart Neighbour.

Head chef, Sam Pinzone, has worked as a chef for several years, and has worked under some big names in the industry, including Neil Perry and Jacques Reymond.

"To cook great food you need great produce and at the Grand that is exactly what we are doing—fresh fish, dry aged beef and some great local produce."

They are proud to say that virtually all their food products will be Australian, and they will source as many products as possible from local growers and producers.

"All the ingredients in our food are top quality and made on the premises—everything from our sauces to our chips to our ice creams," manager Peter Appleby said.

The three owners and Peter have all lived locally for several years. They say buying the pub was a "passionate investment" and they are looking forward to putting money and time into making the Grand a local icon.



From left: Manager Peter Appleby, owners Steve & Matt Graham and Greg Kennedy with chef Sam Pinzone. (Picture by Brianna Piazza)

# Seeds for the future

By **MICHELLE PINI**

Erica Sanders is reaping what she sows—literally.

The Warrandyte resident and creator of Seeds for the Future, has developed a fundraising concept that is both fun and guilt free; selling organically grown seeds for mainly edible plants.

Erica says she was sick of chocolate drives and other fundraising projects that did not reflect healthy living, environmental sustainability or ethical considerations.

Her business, Seeds for the Future, is organic, all Australian, environmentally friendly, sustainable, educational and healthy and uses only recycled packaging materials and plant-based inks.

Even marketing is done mainly by email to reduce paper use.

Seeds for the Future took out the 2012 Sustainable Environmental Business Award at Nillumbik council. The council website states that the judges were "very impressed by both the clarity of the business concept and the packaging, information and support to assist organisations undertake their fundraising".

Erica, who works for Arts Victoria as her "day job", is a keen gardener and cook.

"I wanted to explore everyday seeds that people eat and also show quick results," she told the *Diary*. "A lot of



Erica Sanders

research ensued and there were other considerations such as the longevity of seeds and environmental packaging options."

Customers are mainly schools, kinders and sporting clubs, but there have also been a few corporate sales to organisations with marketing synergies.

Erica believes growing up in Warrandyte shaped her attitudes to seeking sustainable solutions. She says she loves that the business provides the opportunity for people to "grow things" and is proud of the ethical aspects of the venture.

She describes the award as a great accolade and boost for the business



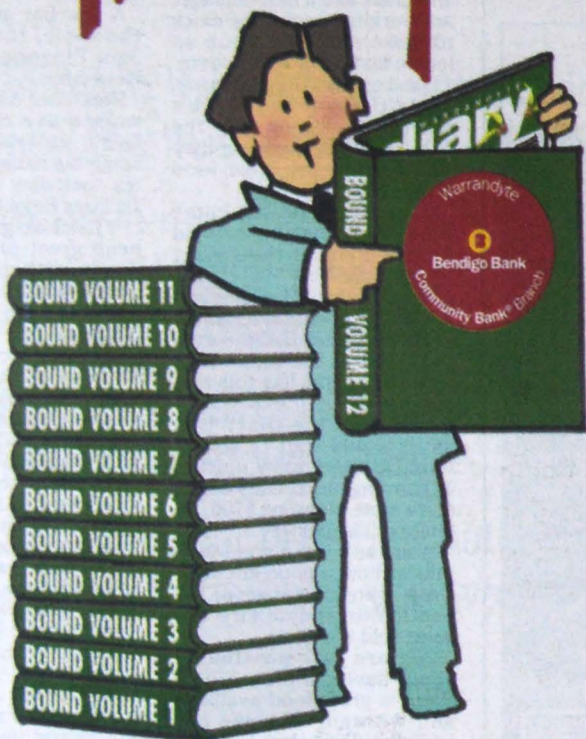
# Dead TV sets live again

For the first time last month, television sets were included among items that could be left at the Uniting Church-WarrandyteCAN recycling drive. They turned up in their hundreds at the church; dead TVs that have entertained local families for decades, replaced by newer models, but now destined to be recycled for charities and other good causes.

Pictures by **STEPHEN REYNOLDS**



# Thankyou



**TO THE WARRANDYTE BENDIGO BANK  
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## Santa is coming with the CFA



**WONGA PARK  
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(PARK ORCHARDS,  
DONVALE,  
NORTH RINGWOOD &  
WARRANWOOD)**  
Sunday 23 December  
from 9am



**WARRANDYTE  
(DONCASTER EAST,  
TEMPLESTOWE)**  
Sunday 23 December  
from 9.30am

**NORTH  
WARRANDYTE**  
Sunday 23 December  
from 9.30am

*This year Santa has been doing his CFA run for 40 years!*

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# happy happy happy holidays

From all of us at Warrandyte **Community Bank** Branch, best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.

**We look forward to seeing you**

- Saturday 22 December - 9am to 12 noon
- Sunday 23 December - Closed
- Monday 24 December - 9am to 5pm
- Tuesday 25 December - Closed
- Wednesday 26 December - Closed
- Thursday 27 December - 9am to 5pm
- Friday 28 December - 9am to 5pm
- Saturday 29 December - 9am to 12 noon
- Sunday 30 December - Closed
- Monday 31 December - 9am to 5pm
- Tuesday 1 January - Closed



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### Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale

Meets Tuesdays, 6.30pm Natalie's Restaurant, 669 Maroondah Hwy, Mitcham



**Congratulations to Three Talented Future Leaders**

As part of our New Generations focus, Rotary has a proud history of funding programs aimed at supporting youth to reach their full potential.

Munopa Rukure (second from left) was sponsored to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) near Ballarat this year. RYLA is an intensive six-day training program for young people aged 18 to 30 which emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth. Munopa, a graduate from Swinburne said the program was a life changing experience and increased her leadership skills.

Nicholas Ensor and Theresa Dinh (middle) are successful applicants to attend the Rotary National Youth Science Forum. The NYSF is held over a two-week period in Canberra and Perth during January and provides up to 450 year 12 students with the opportunity to test-drive careers in science, engineering and related disciplines. These positions are highly sought after and students have to be successful in 2 intensive interviews to be selected. As the sponsoring club, Warrandyte Donvale Rotary provides \$1550 to each student to enable them to attend. Presenting the recipients are Club Secretary Judy Hall (left) and New Generations Director Linda Rieschieck (right).

**29th Warrandyte Art Show Gala Champagne Opening**

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7pm to 11pm

Saturday  
23 March  
10am to 5pm

Sunday  
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Warrandyte Community Church  
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Warrandyte

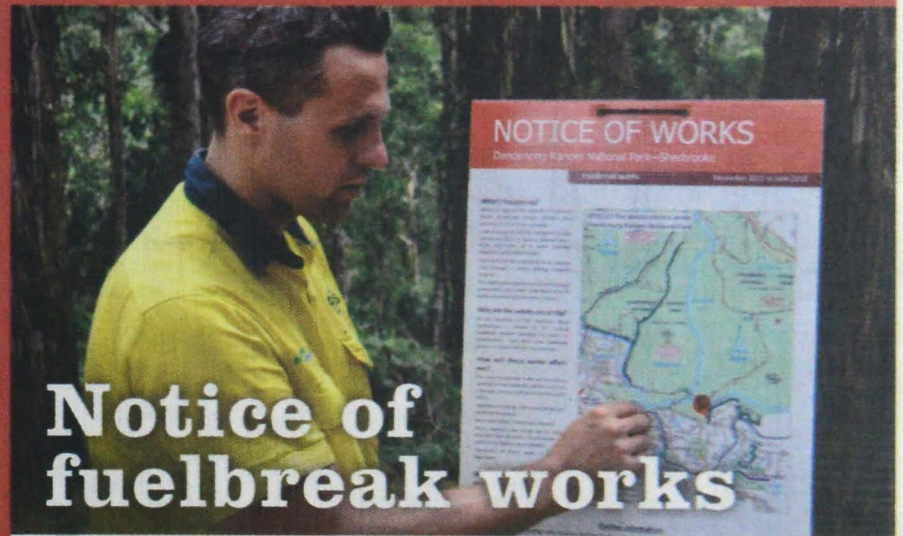
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**Working Hard in Order to Give**

Members of The Rotary Club of Warrandyte Donvale work hard throughout the year to raise funds. Annually around \$100,000 is returned to the community to fund our many local and international projects. Rotarian Bob Fry is selling tickets in the monster Christmas stocking raffle at the Warrandyte Market. Other funds are raised from our Tunstall monthly Market, Rotary Warrandyte Op Shop and the Rotary Warrandyte Artshow held in March.

**Making Victoria FireReady:**



## Notice of fuelbreak works

**Parks Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment advise that fuelbreak maintenance and new fuelbreak works are being undertaken in local parks and reserves through to June 2013.**

Vegetation including understorey shrubs and weeds will be cleared and some trees will be selectively removed – with crews and machinery working onsite, some park areas will be closed for public safety while works are underway.

Fuelbreaks will be maintained as part of Parks Victoria's ongoing fire management program which includes slashing, weed management, track maintenance and planned burning.

These works are part of an integrated plan to reduce bushfire risk to people, property and communities.

Fuelbreaks will not in themselves stop a major bushfire, but they improve the buffer for nearby homes, provide better access for firefighters and assist with the suppression of fires.

Details and maps are available at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) under the Fire Management section of each park's page.

For more information contact Parks Victoria:

Call 13 1963  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**





# Christmas in Warrandyte

Kids playing carols at the market, "pipe-cleaner" Christmas trees popping up along Yarra Street, shops dressed up in sparkling lights, gnomes hiding in shop windows, an IGA (and friends) Christmas party in the car park with prizes galore (See Page 16)! That's Christmas in Warrandyte in 2012. *Diary* photographer STEPHEN REYNOLDS wandered around the village this month and captured these special moments.





# QUINTON'S SUPA IGA

How the locals like it™



## Christmas in the carpark!

ALMOST everyone in Warrandyte gathered at Goldfields Plaza when IGA (in conjunction with Indian Affair Restaurant, Warrandyte Pharmacy and the Warrandyte Business Association) presented their wonderful Christmas Party in the Carpark on Friday, December 14.

IGA owner Julie Quinton told the *Diary*: "We've just had a wonderful six months." The previous six months were pretty awful, with the international credit card scam and other problems, "but now things are going really well. We feel like we're part of the community once more. We want to celebrate with everyone!"

To prove the point, Julie took the opportunity of the Christmas party to present the following donations to these local good causes:

- ★ Warrandyte CFA \$1000
- ★ North Warrandyte CFA \$500
- ★ South Warrandyte CFA \$500
- ★ Warrandyte Primary School \$500
- ★ Blue Cross Animal Centre \$250
- ★ Food for Thoughtfulness \$250

Attractions at the Christmas party included a jumping castle, face painting, live music from Eclipse, fairy floss, snowcones, Santa and the Fairy Floss Lion. The kids went crazy!

CLIFF GREEN



Pictures by SCOTT PODMORE





# FOWSP nursery attractions

**T**HE Indigenous Plant Nursery, run by the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) at Pound Bend, is a very attractive place.

The plants are grown, primarily, to provide appropriate stock for revegetating damaged areas within the park. They are also available, in exchange for a donation, to people who wish to revegetate their own land or have indigenous plants in their garden. This is one attraction.

The friendly staff and volunteers who meet on Thursday mornings and some weekend days throughout the year are also an attraction. Volunteers find it a wonderful place to learn about our local plants and animals while helping with propagation and many other tasks. Last month FOWSP celebrated its 30th anniversary and I had the pleasure of meeting some of its founders and learning a little about the determined people who started the nursery and laid a strong foundation for this Friends' group.

During a recent visit to the nursery on a warm day, I found the nursery is also attractive to many interesting small creatures. Here are three special experiences, from just one day, that I want to share with you.

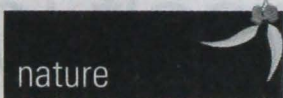
I entered the back of the nursery walking stealthily between rows of potted plants and tubs filled with water and a range of water plants. Something metallic blue flashed in front of my eyes; too quickly for me to focus.

When alighted on the toothed leaf edge of a River Lomatia, the exquisitely delicate outline of a male Damselfly—brilliant blue with black markings—was clear. He was soon on the move again, his blue eyes flashing. Clearly he was on the lookout for something.

That something appeared in the form of a slightly stouter but still lovely yellow and brown damselfly with dreamy yellow green eyes. Not about to miss his chance, blue-eyes clasped brown-eyes by her



Love heart: Damselflies mating. (Picture by Linda Rogan)



By LINDA ROGAN

shoulders with his tail tip. Bending elegantly she allowed the tip of her abdomen to touch and clasp his upper abdomen achieving the "wheel" position that is the damselfly position for mating. My granddaughter describes this as a "love heart" and it looks thus to me as well. I'm sure it is the water plant feature that has attracted these graceful lovers to the nursery.

Just ahead, a very small native bee landed on a tiny blue Austral Hound's Tongue flower. It would have been invisible had I not seen it land. A close look at my photo shows

a "bubble" of nectar, as large as its head, being pumped in and out by its tongue, an action that will thicken the nectar in the sun. I first saw this bubbling a year ago with a larger native bee in Western Australia. In November the nursery is full of flowering plants that attract our beautiful native bees.

A third thrill for my day was a butterfly. It was the reason I had returned to the nursery on that day. The previous day I had been shown this skipper butterfly and I couldn't place it. With wings closed, the underwings were creamy white with black spots and stripes, something I didn't immediately recognise although I knew I had seen something similar in a butterfly book. With wings open it showed the

more familiar brown orange and yellow colours with a narrowing striped abdomen.

I needed to delve into a couple of my butterfly books to assure myself that this is the male Spotted Sedge-skipper, a member of the Ornate Sedge-skipper group. The dramatically marked underwings are indeed ornate. The food plant for the caterpillar of this butterfly is a sedge or Carex such as tassel sedge grown in the nursery. This plant was rare and localised in 1999 in the Warrandyte district. Now it is growing luxuriantly in Frogland beside the nursery. This is likely the reason this butterfly has also been attracted to the nursery.

These things and many more attract me to the FOWSP nursery.

# Queuing for ancient gems

**W**ARRANDYTE'S daily traffic backlog at the bridge is but poor preparation for time spent queuing during a visit to Turkey. Three or four deep, the lines of people waiting to enter Istanbul's Hagia Sophia, for example, stretch hundreds of metres.

Nobody could come to this part of the world and not visit this legendary monument, which represents a shared history of Christianity and Islam; and as most tourists have limited time at their disposal, anticipation and resignation are equally evident on almost every patiently waiting face. Widely considered the most ambitious and advanced of ancient buildings, Hagia Sophia was built around 535 AD as an Orthodox cathedral; its soaring dome and dreamy light quality have inspired both eastern and western architecture ever since.

The absolute power and grace of the vast interior space simply has to be experienced—a mere photograph cannot convey the sense of awe it generates.

Untold numbers of people swarm from every corner of the globe to enter its portal,

weary of flimsy modern box-like buildings, craving even a few moments under that glorious dome.

Istanbul's other heavily-visited sites are equally impressive. The glittering treasure trove within Topkapi Palace, home of Ottoman Sultans for over 500 years, is beyond imagination, as is the delicate beauty of the Blue Mosque; the simple grandeur of the Great Mosque; the fascinating network of Roman aqueducts and cisterns; and the colourful hubbub of Istanbul's intricate web of alleyways and bazaars.

The crowds of tourists in Istanbul, however, pale into insignificance compared with the layer of humanity that blankets the archaeological site at Ephesus.

An important harbour in ancient Greece, Ephesus achieved its greatest status under the Romans and most of the ruins date from that period. It also played an important role in the spread of Christianity: St Paul preached in the agora; Mary (mother of Jesus) lived out her final years there, along with St John, whose tomb lies beneath the ruins of a nearby basilica; St Paul's letter to the Ephesians has, of course, been immor-



By MARILYN MOORE

talised in the New Testament; and two of the Great Councils of the early church were held there.

Even in ruins, this once-great city bears witness to a sumptuously civilised past. Exquisitely carved statues and reliefs were abundant, and recently excavated terrace houses reveal Roman mosaics and artwork on a grand scale. Sadly, earthquakes have taken their toll over the past 2000 or more years.

The great colonnades and ornate facades now lie in tatters, and the harbour silted up centuries ago.

Amphitheatres and stone pavements have better withstood the region's dynamic geological history, and there remains a palpable magic in walking on pathways polished smooth by so many feet over thousands of years.

These same pathways, however, have probably never seen anything like the wear and tear currently inflicted on them by hordes of enthusiastic tourists.

When a cruise ship is in port,

there are more than a hundred buses in the carpark at any one time and scores more jockeying for position (or, as my beloved wrote on a postcard, "Thou shalt experience the multitudes ... Pestilence in the chariot park!"). Thousands of visitors clamber over the elaborately ornamented theatre, which, being cut into the hillside, commands a spectacular view.

Along Curetes Street, between the Gate of Herakles and the Agora, thousands more camera-toting tourists mill around the terrace houses, the Temple of Hadrian and the stunning façade of the library. Another never-ending stream of sightseers crowds into the colonnaded street further up the hill, agog for a glimpse of the Bouleuterion, the Varius Baths, the Temple of Domitian—even the drains!

Why? I doubt if there's anything on the planet to compare with the great ruined city of Ephesus. So much history! And so much knowledge still to emerge, as teams of archaeologists steadily continue their work, chipping away, sorting and sifting, painstakingly piecing together the world's largest jigsaw ... it's so worth queuing for!

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## Daniel Patience Podiatry is back in town

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# Enjoying yourself (or not) in the good old US of A

IT reminded me a bit of Moomba and the Warrandyte Parade. But what made it all the more interesting was that it happened in Harvard, Boston.

We joined up with our friend, Frances, who lives on Boston's fringe. We first made her acquaintance when we were both on a coach tour of south-west WA.

There were only six of us and it didn't take long for us to sort out friendships. Frances became an obvious choice. She is one of those larger than life women who has led a varied life as an artist, fashion designer, interior decorator and landscape garden designer to the rich and famous, that is, when she is not co-hosting a long running gardening series on US TV.

The Boston leg of our holiday was towards the end of the fourth week and we had been trying to get a handle on North American culture, with varied success. We'd seen much, but also, we had been foiled. We couldn't see one city art gallery because the entrance was blocked by a film crew who were in the process of shooting a nano-second of film for a rom-com, I think entitled, "The Wrongs of Being Right". We returned the next day to find the entrance was clear but another nano-second's worth of film was being shot inside, so of course that was the end of viewing that gallery.

The hurt wasn't made better by the substitute entertainment, however. Evidently it



kibbled

**"The Boston leg of our holiday was towards the end of the fourth week and we had been trying to get a handle on North American culture..."**

was Seniors' Week and we found ourselves surrounded in the mall by scores of more mature aged citizens line dancing to country and western music. There is something enjoyable and at the same time horrific about the sight of all those grey haired folk reliving their "Nutbush" days.

And it wasn't just the arty bits that we had tasted.

In New York we went to see a baseball match at the Yankee Stadium. The Yankees were playing the Boston Red Socks and we had bought tickets for

the game, on-line, before we left Oz. Neither of us has any interest in baseball but we thought it was something we ought to see.

Yankee Stadium is in the Bronx and the view of the tenement buildings from both the train and the stadium certainly reinforces the reality that not everyone fares well in the old US of A. Apart from the local area, the things that amazed us both were the overly loud multi-screen promotions and warnings that the management denied liability for any injury that may be caused by any miss-hit baseball and that if anyone didn't abide by the following 400 stadium rules scrolling down the screens then they'd just better watch out!

But the food and drink! There are nine innings and many patrons didn't arrive until the second or third. It didn't take us long to understand why. Yawn. It is so slow, which is perhaps the reason why so much food and drink is consumed. I have never seen so many people replenish both so frequently. We left after the fifth innings and joined the rush of other New Yorkers who, obviously, were off to find other fast food outlets. Our other attempted sporting experience was similarly bizarre.

Hands up how many of you know that Australia had a curling team in the Winter Olympics. Hands up how many of you know what "curling" is. Well it's that game like lawn bowls that is played on ice. Team members heave a 20 kilo

lump of frozen granite down a lane, whilst other team members sweep the ice in front of it in an effort to have it turn the correct way.

Now a friend in Calgary was on the Oz team and agreed to take us to a practice game but, alas, the manager of the venue had switched the wrong switch the previous night, the electricity went off, the ice melted and our practice game was cancelled. A bit like our foiled gallery visit, without the rom-com.

But back to Harvard. Frances drove us around the posh areas of Boston and by the time we reached the outskirts of Harvard we were having our preconceptions about Boston's wealth and conservatism reinforced, that is, until we walked to Harvard Square in Grafton Street where there was a student procession taking place. How wonderful! Here were students doing what students should do; dress up in silly costumes and protest. There were the Leftist Marching Band, Gays and Lesbians for Anything, Evangelical Transvestite Missionaries, environmentalists demanding we stop everything, demonstrators warning that "Banks suck u dry", pleas for "People over profit" and the very real concern in America, the need to "Tax the Rich". It was heavenly nostalgia.

I don't hold out much hope for Moomba but I think the Warrandyte Parade organisers could widen the parade's focus next year.

ROGER KIBELL



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# Local Christmas services

## Celebrate Christ's birthday at your local church

No need to travel far at Christmas. Local churches will be holding their Christmas services as follows: Catholic Church (9876 1509) Christmas Eve - family outdoor Mass 6pm Park Orchards, 9pm Mass at Warrandyte. Christmas Day - Mass 9.30am at Park Orchards. Uniting (9844 0674) Christmas Eve family carols 7.30 pm, communion 11.30pm, Christmas Day - 9am. Community Church (9844 4148) Christmas Eve - 7pm. Christmas Day - 9am. Anglican (9844 2193) Christmas Eve - 11pm. Christmas Day - 9am.

## out of the inbox

By JUDY GREEN

Publicise your coming events. Items for Out of the Inbox are welcome. Include full details of date, place and time and post to: Warrandyte Diary, PO Box 209, Warrandyte Vic 3113; emailed to: info@warrandytediary.com.au; or left in the mail box at St Stephens Anglican Church, 5-7 Stiggant Street, Warrandyte.

the school during the week of February 18 to 22. There will be an open day with a "trip down memory lane" on Thursday, February 21 and school tours during the week. Call the school office on 9844 3537 or email warrandyte.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to register for a tour.

## Market

Fine Design Market is located at Manningham City Square, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster and operates on the second Sunday of each month from 9am to 2pm. It features many of Melbourne's finest designers and includes a selection of fashion accessories, home wares, jewellery, art, photography and gourmet delights.

## Pool

The Diamond Creek outdoor pool is now open for the summer. The pool is located at 1 Elizabeth Street in Diamond Creek. The heated pool complex features a 25 metre shaded pool and a separate toddlers play pool with shade structure. The pool offers

## Thanks

The North Warrandyte CFA Auxiliary would sincerely like to thank all the wonderful residents of North Warrandyte who came along and supported the movie night on Saturday, October 20. They also wish to thank the CFA members who donated their time in setting up the movie and manning the barbecue. The night was a great success with over \$1000 raised. More community events are planned for 2013.

## Anniversary

To celebrate Warrandyte Primary School's 150th anniversary, past students, teachers and friends are invited to visit



## Ho Ho time again!

Santa stands down from fire duty to bring the kids joy and happiness on his Christmas run. Times and places: Page 12.

swimming lessons, birthday parties and hiring options.

Station on Tuesday, February 12 at 7.30pm.

## Watch

The next meeting of the area Neighbourhood Watch will be held at Warrandyte Police

Tell the Diary your news

# Thank you, Diary crew!

By CLIFF GREEN

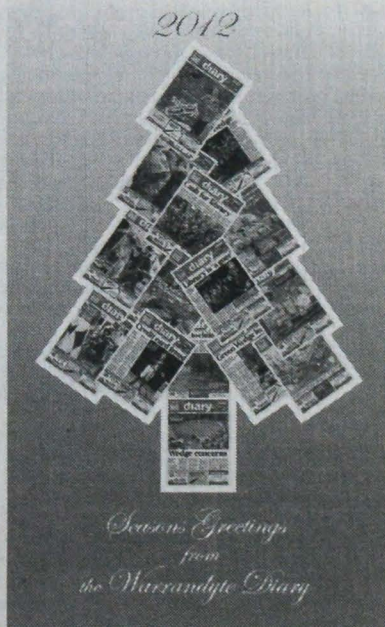
OH what a year it was! The year of the great shift, when we relocated from the Community Centre because of reconstruction work to our temporary home at St Stephens Anglican Church in Stiggant Street. We must take this opportunity to thank the folk at St Stephens who have made us very welcome and comfortable.

We also want to thank Sandy Burgoyne who has retired from the Diary staff after many years of sterling voluntary service as writer, photographer, historian, online editor and technical whiz. Thanks again, Sandy

News reporters are the backbone of any newspaper, and this year we've relied upon Karly Hickman, Cliff Green, Cherie Moselen, Brianna Piazza, Michelle Pini and Georgia Westgarth. Feature stories were contributed by Val Polley, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Alana Phillips, and Stephen Reynolds.

Diary images—black and white and colour—are windows on our local world. Photographers have included Stephen Reynolds, Alana Phillips, Scott Podmore, Jan Tindale, Jeremy Loftus-Hills, Ross Snowball, Matt Allan, Gareth Dickson, Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry and Brianna Piazza. No other local paper can boast a team of artists like Jock Macneish, Paul Williams, Robert Black and Wayne Rankin.

Columnists in a newspaper are the old friends we meet again each issue. Alan Cornell, Marilyn Moore, Roger Kibell, Linda Rogan, Joan Broadberry and Judy



Green were familiar names this year. Karen Throssell was our celebrated resident poet.

Our sports pages might be at the back, but many of our readers turn to them first. Scott Podmore, Ryan Hoiberg, Chris Chapman, Tony Oliver, Ed Munks, Brianna Piazza, Lance Nilsson, Frans

Brouwer, Ross Snowball and Buzz Lawson followed the challenges and reported the matches through the seasons.

Someone has to decide what goes in, where it goes, and how it's presented. Editors Cliff Green and Scott Podmore accept full blame.

Of equal value are all those folk who labour behind the scenes to bring you your paper each month.

Rachel Schroeder set the type, designed the ads and supervised production. David Hogg and Robert Black stood by, attending to all our technical glitches and problems. The skilled craftspeople at Streamline Press took pride in printing our paper each month.

Briony Bottarelli has managed our advertising and accounts, weathering all our storms with a laugh, including coordinating our monumental shift. Penny Munks and Ed Munks and Peter Norman and Joyce Norman continue delivering to our far-flung distribution points—again managed by Briony. They all deserve our special thanks.

We especially appreciate our esteemed and valued advertisers. We have no other source for the vital finance that keeps the paper going and the issues coming.

Finally, it is to you, our loyal and enthusiastic readers that we offer our special heartfelt thanks, especially to those among you who have contributed to our Dear Diary page.

● This is our last issue for 2012. No Diary in January, but we'll see you again on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. Copy closes on Friday, January 25.



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# Boxing Day in old Warrandyte

By VAL POLLEY

**W**HAT does Boxing Day mean to you? Enjoying a day of rest and recovery after a surfeit of food, drink and family on Christmas Day? Participating in a day of activity at the beach or a bush barbecue with family and friends? Watching sport such as the Boxing Day Test at the MCG or perhaps on TV while occasionally flicking channels to see the start of the Sydney Hobart yacht race?

Boxing Day is celebrated today on December 26 and its British origins are considered as old as the celebration of Christmas itself. However there is much speculation and several possible explanations about its origins.

One school of thought is that it dates back to Anglo-Saxon times with gifts for the poor that were distributed the day after Christmas Day. Another that it dates from the custom of churches who traditionally had an "alms box" into which donations from worshippers were placed throughout the year to be opened the day after Christmas and the alms distributed amongst the poor of the parish.

Or it may originate from the custom of the landed gentry "boxing up" gifts and Christmas leftovers and distributing them amongst their workers and tenants. Or from a 16th century tradition where a clay "box" called a Christmas Box was put on display prior to the Christmas festival in workshops

and stores so that donations of money could be made by employers, customers, and visitors. Then on the first weekday after Christmas the box was broken open and the proceeds distributed among the apprentices and low paid workers. This practice is thought to have lent its name to Boxing Day and the name still refers to annual gifts or pay bonuses.

Whatever the origin you choose to embrace, Boxing Day has been a holiday enjoyed by everyone for generations with sporting pursuits very much at the top of the agenda. In recent times the Test Match played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground has become a traditional Boxing Day fixture attracting large crowds as well as a huge TV audience.

Unlike the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) which was founded in November 1838 by pastoralists, bankers, merchants and the like, the Andersons Creek (later Warrandyte) Cricket Club was much more egalitarian being founded (1855) by managers, foremen, and miners. It held a Boxing Day cricket match in 1882 between Andersons Creek and Ringwood with the visitors emerging the winners by some 20 runs.

The following year saw a successful Boxing Day Children's Picnic and Cricket Match. Once again Ringwood were the adversaries but Andersons Creek won the day by seven runs. It was the beginnings of a sporting tradition of which Warrandyte today should be very

proud.

The Children's Boxing Day Picnic must have been most successful because the next year 1884 hosted a much larger event that was reported on in the *Evelyn Observer* as "... a pretty sight. Mr Collins ... has made a large circle, festooned from a centre tree with numerous small and large flags, the latter with suitable devices; this, combined with the splendid weather, the beautiful green appearance of the ground, and the well dressed, happy-looking children, the 'tout ensemble' was perfect. ... About 100 children sat down to tea, sports were indulged in, and useful prizes given to the successful ones."

By the early 1890s cricket matches were no longer the order of the day but the Boxing Day Sports had become well established. Often followed by a concert and ball in the evening, these events were well attended and greatly appreciated. Events such as the Old Buffers Race and Caber Tossing provided visitors with amusement. But in 1894 the organising committee abandoned sporting preparations due to a lack of support—it seemed there was more interest in the evening entertainment and ball. However the break did not last long. By 1895 it was reported that: "The Creek are about reviving our Boxing-Day Sports. They used to be very successful and well attended, and I think the prizes it is intended to give, will draw a large body of competitors" ...

"The day turned out well with the weather all that could be desired, and a large attendance. The list of events was varied and included a Maiden Race; Boys' Race; Open Handicap Hurdle Race; Girls' Race; Sheffield Handicap; Throwing Cricket Ball; Local Married Men's Race; Sack Race; Handicap Mile Race; Siamese Race; Married Ladies' Race, Potato Race and Youths' Race. The sports were followed by a concert in aid of the Melbourne Hospital."

The Boxing Day Sports Day grew ever larger and more successful from 1902 thanks to the enthusiasm and efforts of the local organising committee. Events such as a wood chop were added and larger crowds attracted from further afield despite difficulties experienced in getting to Warrandyte and with extreme heat or rain often marring proceedings.

1905 newspaper reports show the sports day was bigger and more successful with a large attendance of picnickers from far and near taking advantage of perfect weather and splendid scenery to thoroughly enjoy themselves while being entertained by the Templestowe Brass Band.

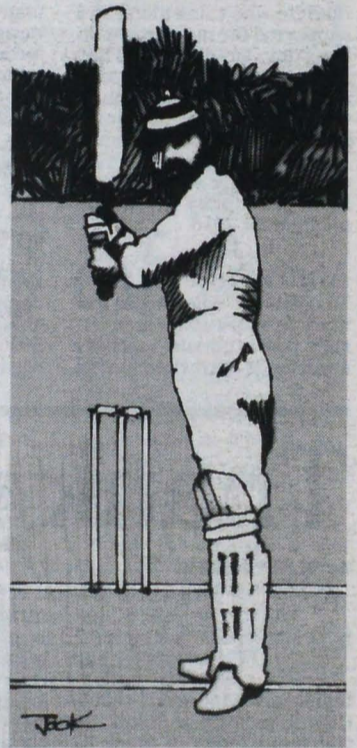
The 1909 Sports were held under the auspices of the Warrandyte Progress Association. It was reported that: "Despite the hot weather, the picturesquely-situated sports ground looked at the best. There was plenty of shade under the wide-spreading umbrageous gum-trees. It is an ideal spot for picnickers with plenty of hot and cold water at hand. The beer at the Publican's Booth was delightfully cool and refreshing, while for those who liked soft stuff there were plenty of cool, fizzy drinks at the Temperance Booth where cups of excellent tea could also be obtained.

"The natural surroundings and the perfect appointments for the convenience and enjoyment of visitors combined to make the rendezvous idealistic for a scorching Summer's day, while the splendid Sports provided should have satisfied the most exacting and fastidious of mortals."

Side shows such as boxing and tight-rope walking provided extra entertainment. Local identity Fred Topping was in charge of much of the sport event organisation, though the report also noted that some events had to be abandoned due to drunkenness. The following year attendances peaked at over 1000 visitors; a quite phenomenal performance for such a small township. This was the high point however; while the Boxing Day Sports continued to flourish up to 1914, attendance and organisation declined with spasmodic events during the war years.

In 1919 the popular Annual Picnic Sports fixture was back with a vengeance with a program of athletic and horse events, brass bands, refreshment booths and a concert and ball. These annual festivities continued to thrive with few breaks, though in 1925 they had to be postponed due to heavy rain. In 1928 there were no sports as the Victorian Athletic League refused to register them. This was considered a pity due to the long history of the sports day. But 1929 saw another good day despite unpleasant weather. This time it was attended by officials from the Victorian Amateur Athletics Association (VAAA) with the four main races run under VAAA rules.

Then over the next few years the Boxing Day sports seemed to decline somewhat following increasing competition from other local sporting fixtures such as the popular swimming carnival on the River Yarra. However in 1937 the Boxing Day Sports, which had been such a feature of the township for some 45 years, was again revived with an attractive program. It was anticipated that the once-famed sports event would again attract a



large crowd being the only Boxing Day Sports in the district and with a Grand Ball to follow at night.

Even after the Second World War, Boxing Day in Warrandyte continued to lure visitors with picnics, dancing and sports providing the main attractions. However with more and more competition from other quarters Warrandyte's own Boxing Day activities declined.

The first Boxing Day Melbourne Cricket Test Match took place in 1950 (Australia beat England by 28 runs); TV started with the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 and a whole range of other options opened up for Boxing Day activity and amusement.

We take so much for granted these days with our instant entertainment, multiple leisure activities, easy travel and access to good food and drink. Those past Boxing Day events reflect times when it fell to residents to create their own enjoyment in their own locality and to make the best of what life had to offer.

So whatever your activities are on Boxing Day this year, just spare a thought for all the time and effort that went into making all those decades of Boxing Day sports, concerts and balls so memorable, even through times of extreme difficulty and hardship. No matter where or how you spend your holiday season, make it a safe and wonderful time. Merry Christmas.



# FLETCHERS

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# Six special moments...



FOWSP heroes: Mike and Pat Coupar

## FOWSP's birthday

By VAL POLLEY

It was a wonderful sunny afternoon when past and present Friends, members and supporters gathered to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Friends of Warrandyte State Park (FOWSP) last month.

Not only did those present hear something of the history of the group and how it has grown over the decades, they heard about current growth and the plans for the future including an exciting new education centre to be opened in 1913.

Sets of commemorative crystal glasses were presented to early founder members: Val Polley, Glen Jameson, Tim Ferguson, Margaret Burke and Doug Seymour. Geoff Durham also received a set. Geoff was with the Victorian National Parks Association who played a role in the initial setting up of the group as well as providing valuable support over the years.

Former coordinators Pat and Mike Coupar travelled from Mallacoota to be with the group on this auspicious occasion. A marvellous lunch was served and enjoyed while many old acquaintances were renewed.

FOWSP has grown to be one of the largest Friends groups and draws its membership from Warrandyte and beyond. The day provided an opportunity to celebrate the decades of work by this talented and diverse group who have contributed so much work, friendship and support to each other, the Park and its staff.

**B**OMBSHELLS is a series of six monologues, packaged in a hybrid genre—part dramatic comedy, part musical. Although in Warrandyte the part is played by six actors, it was originally written for one, so we assume that it represents bombshell moments in one woman's life.

First to appear is the instantly recognisable young suburban mother, the manic Meryl Louise Davenport, played by Gemma Porter. Meryl's vignette starts and ends with that universal signifier—the infant's cry. This is Gemma's first time on our stage, and she emanates the mania and underlying self-doubt with boundless energy. Living in a vortex of chaotic trivia, Meryl is a victim of the selflessness of motherhood, resentful that she can barely find a moment to apply her lipstick.

Meryl speaks in a language we understand, about the very ordinary preoccupations that can so easily monopolise one's life. The writing is witty and mildly provocative. This is a wonderful beginning for Gemma, and an engaging opening to the play—in some ways a hard act to follow.

Enter Twiggy Entwistle replete with slides of phallic prickly cacti. Tiggy is the most original and layered of Murray-Smith's characters. Early middle-aged, she stands nervously, addressing a small town audience of gardening enthusiasts. Her speech will be about succulents she says, but in an early

aside gives notice that she "feels it necessary" to also speak about her "annus horribulus".

Tiggy is struggling to understand why her fare infringement officer husband has left her for a younger woman with a pierced navel. Despite a sweet disposition and poetic expression, one is left with the sense that Tiggy is a victim of her own shortcomings. Simone Kiefer finds just the right voice for her repressed psycho-sexual complexity while all the time retaining the appearance of normality and decorum.

From the chaos of young motherhood and the catharsis of midlife crises, we are whisked with fanfare to teenage angst. Mary O'Donnell (Georgia Westgarth) is in her mid teens and about to perform in a talent quest. When Angela McTerry "steals" her number *O'Shaugnessy the Cat*, Mary throws a tantrum, recovers, then improvises a variation to the theme from *Shaft*, itself a reference to exploitation, manipulation and revenge. Georgia has the youth and attitude to bring Mary to life, and plays her with a self-deprecating mix of sarcasm and intensity.

From the ruins of one failed enterprise, to the prospect of another—the wedding of Theresa McTerry (Gabby Llewelyn-Salter). Theresa is a ditsy blonde whose illusions about marriage are shattered by the real thing, on her wedding day. There is nothing original or intriguing about Theresa, she is straight out of the playwright's guide to ste-

theatre

By JEREMY LOFTUS-HILLS

reotypes. Gabby plays her with wit and verve, but she has very little to work with, outside a few comic aural references. The characterisation would have been improved with a more effective evocation of place (visualisation) and a more nuanced distinction between what Theresa says out loud and what she thinks to herself.

Any hopes that this woman might evolve into a mature, fully functional human being are dashed in the penultimate bombshell moment.

In an eerily static performance, the overly earnest lonely widow Winsome Webster (Susan Rundle) is "seduced" by her young "reader".

With nothing more than her voice and a thin script, Susan quickly establishes a fragility that is at once emotionally galvanising and void of substance. The tyranny of chaos in her youth has now given way to the tyranny of routine in later life. Susan's was the most professional of the six performances, emotionally charged and perfectly pitched. Yet Winsome is as far from fulfilment as ever. Perhaps in her final appearance (as Zoe), this dysfunctional soul will at last inspire some hope.

But alas, Zoe (Lisa Upson) is an alien, vacuous character, dressed in a show biz veneer of glam and bravado. Self absorbed and lost in

makebelieve she expresses a kind of false hope—she talks of liberation while acknowledging captivity. Lisa evokes Zoe's deep-seated vulnerability complete with slurred American accent and a vaudeville style performance. With the enigmatic Jack Stringer on piano, Lisa belts out some show-stopping numbers, and for a moment Bombshells delivers in spades.

Bombshells is a triumph for the local theatre group, proving a diversity of talent, advanced technical ability, set design, costuming skills and competent stage management. Adrian Rice's directing brings out the best in the script and the talent. The play represents a sensible choice for the Warrandyte players, exploiting their experience in staging one act plays and variety shows.

The Warrandyte performance also reveals why, in truth, Joanna Murray-Smith would rather not have this play performed by an "amateur company". It is in fact a play of little substance. It might succeed on the back of a talent the size of Caroline O'Conner's, but otherwise entertains with the gravitas of a random mixture of lightweight television programs—perhaps a mix of *The X Factor* and *Days of our Lives*.

While not overtly anti-feminist, there is little in this play that is positive about womanhood. It entertains no prospect of emancipation. One can understand why UK critics have labelled Murray-Smith anti-female.



## There used to be oceans

I meant to watch the Transit  
Everyone was going to  
It won't happen again for another 105 years  
So for that reason alone  
You shouldn't miss it  
Such a momentous event

But it was bad timing  
Trying to cook breakfast  
Looking for the internet site  
(Didn't get the proper glasses)  
Then the cat was sick  
Had to leave early  
And the vet wasn't there

In the car park I thought of Wolfe Creek Crater  
Half an hour's stumble straight down  
Scrubby grey saltbush scratching your legs  
Looking up from the bottom of a vast hole  
Past layers of centuries-stacked stone—you  
A tiny blip under a vast arc of sky

If churches' soaring ceilings are designed  
To make you feel insignificant, they have nothing  
on this—  
Way below ground level  
Looking up into that huge blue and  
Trying to get your head around  
The notion of "light years"

But as I paid the vet and bundled the old cat  
into the car  
I felt this nigggle—huge things were happening  
up there  
Whilst I performed my small chores  
I imagined something like "Melancholia"—  
The sinister pock-marked planet looming to  
music  
Inexorably bent on its collision course with  
Earth...

Such an anti-climax—  
Our little transit a small black spot  
On the in-your-face ball  
Of sun, a mole, melanoma, a sun spot  
Travelling so slowly it was morning tea  
Before it moved—and the biscuits were stale.

Venus? The mere name is a cliché  
Love, beauty, "romance", de Milo  
Contrarily capable of bringing light  
At each end of the day  
"Evening Star" and "Morning Star"  
Bringer of light, reprieve, and extraordinary  
beauty

But she is no arcadia—  
"Melanoma" may be a better name than Venus  
She is surrounded by sulphuric acid  
*There used to be oceans*  
Then there was Greenhouse  
And they were sucked dry

But as I settled the cat by the fire



With her hourly dose of milk and drugs  
I looked again at the screen  
At the small fly crawling on the sun's face  
And thought about the passage  
Of this unromantic melanoma—

Of course we are the transients  
The ones passing through, smaller than  
The small moles on the face of our planet  
And in 105 years she'll be back  
And we'll all be gone  
without a trace.

KAREN THROSSELL

# A ton of courage

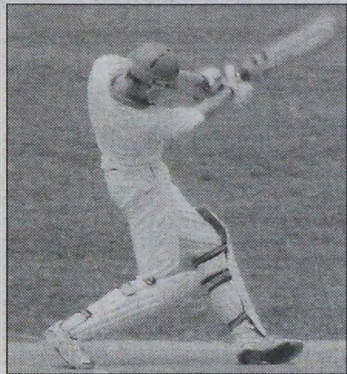
By RYAN HOIBERG

WARRANDYTE Cricket Club senior teams have hit a hump going into the Christmas break, with only one win in the past month.

With all four grades playing the longer format of the game, and disappointing numbers sapping the teams of valued players, makeshift teams across all levels ensured Warrandyte remained competitive. And from those challenges some gutsy cricked has emerged, highlighted brilliantly by a maiden senior century for teenager Ben McMellan.

McMellan, 17, is looking to cement a place in the Seconds with both bat and ball, and is now a real chance to head for Firsts selection. In the same match, where he produced three wickets for his skipper, McMellan showed maturity beyond his age in pushing Warrandyte towards an unlikely run chase. Working away in temperatures that didn't drop below 35 for the entire innings, yet refusing to bat without his helmet and full padding, McMellan's innings - lasting 45 overs - showed class, dismissing any short balls lethally into the leg side boundary.

McMellan brought his century up with a classy four and to an outpouring of support, especially given his commitment to training and his technique has been second to none.



Ben McMellan blasts another four.

In other club news, Warrandyte's First XI welcomed Adam White back to the fold.

Despite a good start provided by Ben Taylor in the Round 4 match against Montrose, and White's steady collection of runs, Warrandyte's shaky middle order proved its downfall, especially after a gutsy performance in the field the week before. With Montrose looking like scoring 300-plus at the half-way point, tight bowling and superb fielding pegged the score back, giving Warrandyte a look-in for the run chase.

The following week Warrandyte was beaten easily, with sloppy catching never giving the Firsts a chance at defending their meagre total. White was the only lynchpin with the bat, working at his 52 off 50 overs, while his partners fell around him.

The Seconds have had two stand-out performances with the bat - McMellan's effort just pipping Joel Duffel's 95 n/o as he ran out of partners in a run chase at Montrose and missed his maiden ton for the club. Despite those performances, Warrandyte is yet to have a win.

The Thirds have been asked to play on the smaller ground at Warrandyte this season, ensuring some entertaining, but high scoring cricket. Posting 353 off 70 overs with veteran Cam Day saluting the crowd with 111, Warrandyte produced a great win against Eastfield, yet was not able to back it up in the next fixture and fell short against St Andrews.

**Firsts** - Round 4: Warrandyte 191 (White 72) lost to Montrose 8/271 (Mooney 3/51). Round 5: Warrandyte 126 (White 52) lost to Croydon Rangers 5/276 (Taylor 2/1)

**Seconds** - Round 4: Warrandyte 241 (Duffel 95 n/o, Rees 71) lost to Montrose 5/251 (McMellan 3/55). Round 5: Warrandyte 303 (McMellan 108) lost to 6/328 (Beardall 2/36)

**Thirds** - Round 6: Warrandyte 7/353 (Day 111) defeated Eastfield 303 (Gidley 3/70). Round 7: Warrandyte 9/214 (Bowen 78, Revell 74) lost to St Andrews 8/275 (Gidley 4/31)

**Fourths** - Round 6: Warrandyte 256 (Ryan 72) lost to Wonga Park 306 (Warren 6/92). Round 7: Warrandyte forfeit.



Seeing them well: Hawks' No. 3 batsman Josh Barrett slams a boundary on his way to 56.

## HAWKS REBOUND AFTER SLOW START

By FRANS BROUWER

AFTER a slow start to the season, most Hawks senior teams rebounded in November with some outstanding team and individual performances.

The Fourth (G grade) are leading the way - on top with a washout and loss followed by four straight wins - and in the latest round defending a competitive 10/230 (Zep Johnson 58, Ryan Cullen 51). Simon Adams picked up a 4/26 and 61 in Round 4, and followed up with a 7/24 (including a hat trick) in Round 6. Peter Nettelbeck took 5/67 in between.

The Firsts (Trollope Shield) had been unable to chase 300-plus scores in the past two matches, but were looking good against Croydon North, restricting them to 119, and being well placed at 1/39 when lightning and bad light stopped play 10 overs early. A win would move them up from last on the ladder.

The Twos (A grade) have two wins. In Round 7 (at the time the *Diary* went to press) they were 0/14 in reply to Mooroolbark's 242, with spinners David Mock taking 5/77 and Tom Hall 4/66. Opener Robbie Cutler scored 118 in Round 6. Tom Hall has made the transition from Thirds to Seconds with ease. He has taken 10 wickets in three Twos matches, compared with seven wickets in four games in the lower grade.

With two wins already this season and a couple of narrow losses, the Thirds (D grade) seem much improved compared with last season's bottom place.

Captain Darcy Price is leading the way with scores of 22, 44, 122 n/o, 10, 46 and 13, 81 and 104. A score of 10/205 in the current round will not be easy to defend, with Montrose already 0/20 in reply. Hayden Matthys and Sean McMahon are making a welcome return after their European adventures, and this should strengthen the lower teams as players filter down.

The Fifth (I grade) barely manage to field a team most weeks, with several juniors helping out. In some matches, at least five O50s and five juniors have taken the field. The two wins so far include the scalp of top team Lilydale. In the current round the team is 2/79 against Ainslie Park's 3/111 (split innings format). The club has recruited as far as the Kimberley - Joe Ross scored 31 n/o in the last game, and regularly picks up one or two wickets each match.

The juniors are continuing their fine form. The U16-2 team is fourth on the ladder, the U14-2s are top, and the U12-2s are second. Congratulations to the following Hawks players who made RDCA Junior representative teams - Nicholas Condon and Tristan Hansen (U14 Des Nolan competition) and Nicholas Walker (U12 Josh Browne competition).

In Veterans, Masters 1 have won their past two matches and are fourth, the Masters 3 team is yet to win, and the Legends are on the board after chasing 3/224 (Ed Garner 39, Mick English 45 retired, "Rocket" Reilly 40 retired, Barry Williams 40 retired).

# Warrandyte U16s claim biggest scalp

WARRANDYTE'S junior cricketers have settled in well for the season with some terrific wins, none better than the Under 16 team's spirited victory against Lilydale recently.

After trailing in the first split innings by 10 runs and four wickets, the tail wagged and the team scored a thrilling Lilydale 9/134 to Warrandyte 10/137 win. Luke Killey (24) and Joel Bumpstead (35 n/o) led the way with an 83 run partnership to set the 137 for Lilydale to chase.

Ryley Reardon bowled an impressive five overs to take 2/13 with John Stanley 1/16 after 10 overs and Luke Killey taking 4/11 from his 10. Adam Chan also took 1/20 from four overs.

Lilydale's crew did a great job with the run chase and looked like they had it in the bag with only four runs to chase with three overs remaining. However, in the 48th over Mark Baker caught Lachlan Fennel (42) in deep square leg off the bowling of Will Coard to see Warrandyte scrape home with a memorable win.

Coaches report the team's fielding is improving each week and Jack Poole has taken two fantastic slips catches. Also contributing well were Darcy Trenfield, Hugh Prescott and Brad Synnot, along with U12 teammates Bailey Bowyer, Brady Poole, Ben Jackson and Aidan Prescott.

At the time the *Diary* went to print, the boys were equal second

on points on the ladder.

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CHRIS JACKSON reports the Round 3 game against Heathmont Baptist "had the hallmarks of a David versus Goliath epic", with the Young Bloods stepping up a grade after a flying start to the season and Heathmont dropping down from Division 1.

The Heathmont bowlers were very accurate and Warrandyte's perennial top scorer "Mr Extras" was starved with very few wickets and no balls. Bailey Bowyer (21) and Ethan Ward (11) needed a good start, which they achieved, to build on the first week score of 4/72. The Heathmont boys were 'cock-a-hoop' coming into bat, but a disciplined bowling effort by the Bloods saw the game evenly poised and finishing earlier due to light with Heathmont on 5/60.

Aidan Prescott led the way with a mesmerising spell of leg spin bowling and Tom Jackson jagged two quick wickets near the end of the first day to put Warrandyte right back in it. The second week of the game had Heathmont continuing their innings and the Bloods threw everything at them early to restrict the score to 6/72 (a draw at the halfway mark and some valuable points).

Some average bowling meant Heathmont finished up on 167. Hudson Rostron was the pick of the bowlers with 2/7 and the

fielding was excellent with Ethan Ward, Ben Jackson and Tom McKenzie taking some great catches, while Brady Poole took a beauty on the boundary, denying the Heathmont captain his second six.

The score of 167 proved a difficult mountain to climb and the Bloods came up short on 9/123, with a steady stream of wickets falling.

Round 4 saw the Bloods up against local rivals South Warrandyte, who also sat comfortably on top of the ladder in Division 2. South Warrandyte was 4/128 after the first week and finished off with an impressive 8/211. That included a great 57 n/o from their captain, Nick Walker.

As is the Bloods way, they never gave up, despite chasing plenty of leather around the park. Brady Poole 4/9 off four overs and Max Coutts 1/13 off five overs were the pick of the bowlers. The boys again came up against a formidable batting attack and the bowling was found wanting, but they continue to field like demons.

New boy Harper Oehlmann (8) was flaying them everywhere as an opening batsman, but that Dave Warner-style innings was cut short tragically with the first of three run outs. To see first drop Max Coutts (6) bat for 15 overs is an example of a young man who is a sponge for knowledge and gives his all.

In the second week Warrandyte lost Bailey Bowyer (5) first ball and Ethan Ward the very next

### Win some, lose some

WARRANDYTE Football Club has endured mixed fortunes in the off season with senior players Ben Reid retiring, big man Leif Cope heading to Box Hill and rugged onballer Tom Appleby off to try his luck with Croydon. A club insider says while the lads will be big omissions, the Bloods have also landed some handy recruits in Grant Klemm (Montmorency), Jason Scott (East Burwood) and Kyle Speers (Coldstream). There are also a few U19s from 2012 who are expected to play a lot of senior football and the club is working on signing potentials from other clubs.

### Two new refs

WARRANDYTE Basketball has two new members on the referees panel for Victorian Championship (VC) games on Friday night - Lee Thomson and Bruce DeLacy. Both passed their fitness and rules examination and will be officiating at VC games next year.

### Tennis programs

WARRANDYTE Tennis is conducting Australian Open tennis clinics during the Australian Open in January. MLC Hot Shots Community Play also commences in first term next year. For information on all Warrandyte Tennis Club events and programs contact Craig Haslam at [info@thetennisguru.com.au](mailto:info@thetennisguru.com.au) or phone 0488 722 538.

### Junior footy sign-ups

THE Warrandyte Junior Football Club will hold its Registration Day at the Warrandyte Reserve clubrooms on February 10 next year in conjunction with the Run Warrandyte Fun Run. For more visit [www.warrandytejfc.org](http://www.warrandytejfc.org) Follow the club on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WarrandyteJuniorFootballClub](http://www.facebook.com/WarrandyteJuniorFootballClub)

ball. Ben Jackson finished off with 30 n/o and combined with Hudson Rostron (11) and Patrick Grocott who was 12th man, but who South Warrandyte allowed to bat for a few overs. A final score of 93 left Warrandyte well short of the mark and with plenty of work to do in order to mix it with the better sides in Division 2.

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MARTY ROSTRON tells the *Diary* our mighty U10s Bloods remain undefeated after nine rounds in the 2012/13 season.

U10s cricket is a non-competitive age group, which means it's not all about winning or losing, but rather about skill improvement, enjoyment of the game and camaraderie. Every Friday evening, the boys compete against many clubs affiliated with the Ringwood District Cricket Association and train on Mondays. It's a limited over format with 22 overs each.

The U10s this season have shown great skill improvement with both bat and ball, according to Marty. Bowling has been terrific, with the entire team having a go and so far revealing an impressive pace attack with a few spin "wizards". Batting has been solid with some big hitting and skilful shots on show that have resulted in lots of fours and some high scoring. The young Bloods have also excelled in the field by backing up when needed and taking some classic catches when chances arise.



# Nyree's year of sporty spice

what's your story!

As a teenager, Nyree Taylor went from beginner basketball to national Argentinian champion in the space of a year. She shares her story with BRIANNA PIAZZA



WHEN Warrandyte's Nyree Taylor boarded her plane to Argentina about 20 years ago she was a 16-year-old netballer who couldn't speak a word of Spanish.

Yet one year later she returned home with a national basketball championship title and a fluent Spanish tongue.

Always a netballer in Australia, it wasn't until Nyree moved to Argentina that she discovered her true passion for basketball.

Nyree spent one year in Argentina as an exchange student, living with a regular South American family, getting up early to go to morning school and spending countless hours in the afternoons training with her basketball team.

"Basketball wasn't as popular over there like it is here, especially for women so it was quite hard for me to find a basketball team," Nyree said. "I ended up having to travel out of my suburb to play, and I think the team from Cordoba were thrilled when they met me and saw how tall I was."

As a beginner basketballer, Nyree

not only had to learn the game, but also the key basketball language in Spanish.

"I had to learn Spanish, but then I also had to learn how to communicate on a basketball court – like what's dribbling and passing and how do you call out to say that you're free," she said. "You also need to be able to understand how your team plays and be able to understand the plays. People always think there's one star, but it actually takes a whole team to win a game."

During Nyree's year in Argentina, she played one of her best games when Cordoba won the 1991 Formosa Competition – a national competition where Nyree and her team represented their state.

"It was a really high standard competition, and the girls playing were really passionate about it because they wanted more opportunities for women."

"We had been through so much together over there as a team and it was such a unique position for us to be in that we were female basketballers. We were certainly a minor-

ity over there, and so representing Cordoba and winning the championships was very special for us."

Nyree told the *Diary* her basketball team became a second family, helping her get through her year living away from home.

"I think basketball was the thing that just helped me through the year – sometimes I would get really homesick and I'd come to training and my coach, Alejandro, knew us all quite well. He would always know when I was sad or something was wrong, so I could talk to him."

"He also used to take me aside and explain all the accepted cultural things in Argentina. Then the girls were really funny – they were like sisters to me. I have so many great memories with the team."

Nyree enjoyed her year in Argentina so much that when she returned to Melbourne she stayed on the plane as long as she could because she didn't want to go home.

But come home she did, armed with plenty of memories.

"The team used to drink coke on the sideline instead of water, and



South American explorer: Nyree Taylor with her husband Steve and two boys Hayden and Brodie. Above left: Nyree with her Argentina teammates.

anyone who got a cramp during the game would come off court, have a teaspoon of brown sugar and they were back on the court again. Surprisingly, it worked!"

"Another interesting thing was we played on concrete. Only the really elite courts were wooden, because at that stage there weren't enough courts for the men's and women's competitions, but since then basketball has really grown in Argentina."

Nyree continued to play basketball after she returned to Australia and has recently coached a couple of Warrandyte girls' teams.

Now a mother of two young boys, Hayden (9) and Brodie (6), Nyree hopes her passion for sport will be passed on.

She only stopped playing this year because she injured both ankles. Next year, however, it's back to business. Ole!

## NICOLE BAGS BRONZE IN NATIONALS

RISING Warrandyte athlete Nicole Reynolds has continued her excellent racing form to claim a bronze medal in tough, windy conditions against Australia's best young hurdlers recently.

Nicole competed in the Under 14s 80-metre hurdles at the Australian National 2012 Adidas All Schools Track and Field Championship in Hobart.

The first week of December also saw the culmination of the relay season with the state titles at the Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park. Local star of the day was George Standish who claimed gold medals in both the 4x100m and 4x200m relay races.

U10 Boys, coached by Peter Sharpe, made several finals, with Nick Sharpe placing 20th in the 4x200m. U10 Girls: Warrandyte netballer Ashlyn Krakouer placed 18th in the 4x200m and 16th in the 4x100m. U12 Boys: In the finals the team led by local Warrandyte footballers Nick Alexander and Dominic Lee performed magnificently in the 4x100m where they came into the competition the 17th fastest qualifiers and came out 6th fastest in the final.

U14 Girls: A strong contingent of local girls, with two teams competing. Emily Sharpe claimed fourth in the finals of both the 4x200m and 4x100m. Ruby McDowell placed 17th in the 4x100m and then jumped an age group with a last minute withdrawal and placed 10th in the mixed sex U15 4x100m. Julia Corinaldi and Eilish



Determined: Noah Lawson gives his all while Emily Sharpe lets rip in javelin.



Kelly teamed with Ruby to also claim 17th in the 4x100m. U14 Boys: Ben Macri won a silver medal in the U14 mixed sex 4x100m and then qualified fourth fastest for the 4x100m final, however the team had to withdraw from the final with a strained hamstring injury to Ben.

The summer competitions are

held on most Saturday mornings and some occasional Friday evenings at Reischieks reserve. There is a handicap day, multi event day, Centre Championships at the end of the season, the opportunity to compete at other clubs open days, as well as regional and state competitions, the Stawell gift competitions at Easter and intensive

weekend coaching camps at Crystal Creek. When attaining certain competitive benchmarks, there is also an opportunity to participate in the LA Vic Junior Development Squads.

For more information, contact secretary Margaret Kelly on 0447 693 561 or coaching director Peter Sharpe on 0413 777 107.

## Tennis round-up

By MICHELLE PINI

JUNIOR Friday night tennis in the Diamond Valley competition ended recently with the section two and four teams beaten in close semi-finals. Warrandyte Tennis Club, which had returned to the comp for the first time in eight years, is eager to build on its efforts in 2013. The Eastern Region Summer Saturday morning comp started in mid-October and has been a great beginning for the four teams with some excellent tennis.

**Teaming up for tennis**  
Andersons Creek Primary School, together with Warrandyte Tennis Club and Tennis Australia, are taking part in the National Schools Partnership Program. A new initiative from Tennis Australia, the program aims to give primary school students the chance to experience Hot Shots Tennis. Other benefits for the school community include tennis equipment and the opportunity to win VIP tennis experiences.

**Family fun**  
The club is hosting a free family day on Sunday, February 17, next year. As well as plenty of tennis action, there will be a sausage sizzle, games and prizes for the kids. All equipment will be provided, but suitable footwear must be worn.

**Black Caviar in full flight**  
Black Caviar won the grand final of Level 3 in the Lilydale District Night Tennis Association. Black Caviar took on Leylands from Gracedale Park winning 30 games to 24. The team comprised Neil Sproat, Pauline Doherty, Sam Dell'Aglio, Nicole Hogan, Adam Waugh and Emma Bence.



# Second run all set to go

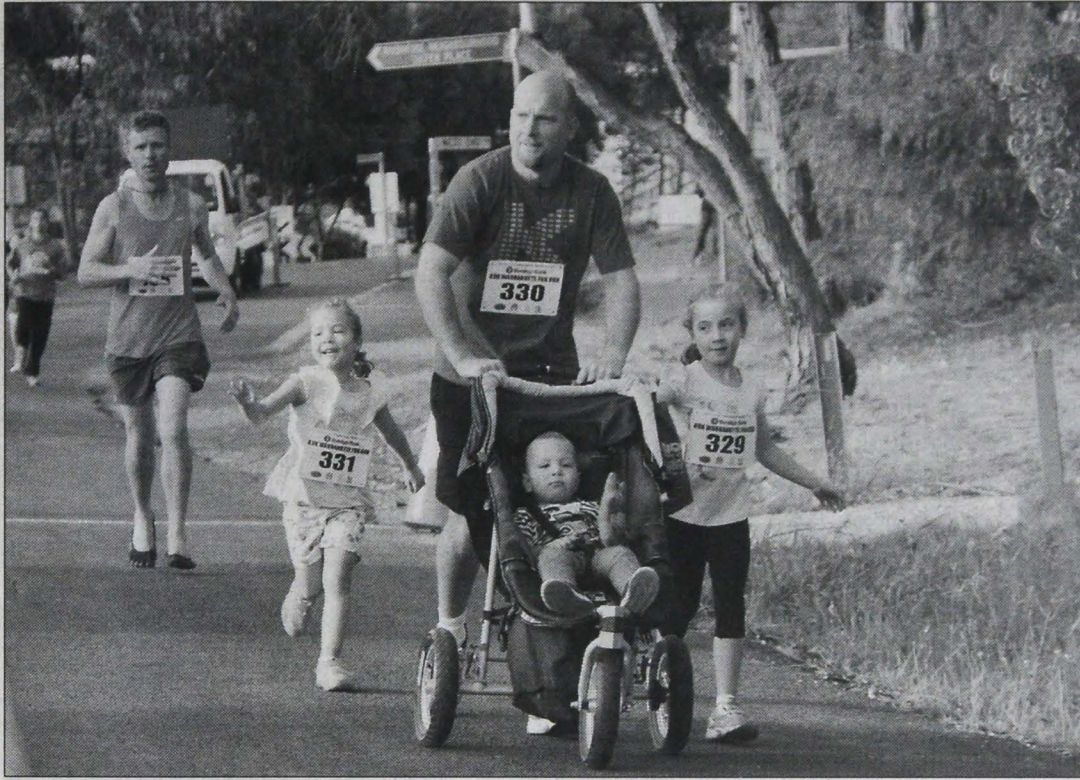
WARRANTYTIANS are on the money when it comes to supporting the second annual Warrandyte Community Bank Run, with event organisers expecting a huge turnout.

Raising funds for Warrandyte football clubs (senior and junior), Warrandyte Netball Club and Warrandyte Cricket Club, the run, on February 10 next year, is promoting fitness at affordable prices.

From leisure walkers to experienced runners, the whole family is encouraged to get out there and have a go. The range of distances include: Ruby Tuesday 2.25km run/walk; Quinton's Supa IGA 4km run/walk; Eko-green cleaning 8km run only; AusCraneHireServices 12km run only and the Kids oval event (under 8s only).

Registration is at 7.30am, starting from 8am. Costs: adults \$15, juniors (8-17 years) \$10, child (under 8) \$5, family \$40. Online registrations are now open - [www.runwarrandyte.blogspot.com](http://www.runwarrandyte.blogspot.com) - on the day registrations incur an extra fee. Local support comes from race sponsors, as well as Castagna Steel, Warrandyte Quality Meats and Shane Garrick Plumbing.

Volunteers are needed to help on the day. Those interested should contact Duncan Large at [duncanlarge8@gmail.com](mailto:duncanlarge8@gmail.com) or 9463 2903.



## Couple closer to marathon adventure



If you live in the Warrandyte area, chances are you have crossed paths with Janette Murray-Wakelin and Alan Murray. And many readers will remember an article we ran in the *Diary* earlier this year when they told us their story.

Every morning for the past year they have been seen running along the Yarra Trail and through Melbourne suburbs, clocking up more than 6000km in training for an incredible ultra endurance event: a 15,500km run around Australia, a marathon (42.2km) every day throughout the year 2013 - that's 365 marathons in 365 days!

During RunRAW2013, the couple hopes to inspire and motivate others to make more conscious lifestyle choices, to promote kindness and compassion for all living beings, and to raise environmental awareness for a sustainable future. They will also be raising awareness and taking donations for four charities: The Australian Paralympics Committee, The Gawler Foundation, Animals Australia and Kids Under Cover.

Janette and Alan are both veteran athletes aged in their 60s, eat only raw vegan food and wear minimalist shoes, while preferring to run barefoot whenever possible.

"We certainly hope to inspire many people," Janette says. "As a 10-year cancer survivor, I am living proof that making conscious lifestyle choices improves your health exponentially, and the fact that we are in our 60s sends the message that it's never too late - you can grow younger by making lifestyle choices to eat well, exercise, enjoy life, and think consciously about living in harmony with nature."

"There are going to be some challenges out there, especially in the heat up north, but we are ready," Alan says.

"We will be running a marathon every day for 365 days around Australia, and we will do it eating fresh raw food only, going barefoot whenever we can."

RunRAW2013 is set to start January 1, leaving from Federation Square and heading north in an anti-clockwise direction, following Highway 1 around Australia, until returning to Melbourne via Tasmania. The last marathon distance will finish at Federation Square on December 31, 2013. On New Year's Day, 2014, this dynamic duo will run an extra marathon distance along the Yarra River Trail from Melbourne, back to their home in Warrandyte. Anyone is welcome to join Janette and Alan along the way as they run around Australia during 2013, or follow them on their website blogs and social media page, or through media updates on TV, radio and the *Warrandyte Diary*. Donations towards RunRAW2013 and charities can be made at: [www.runningrawaroundaustralia.com](http://www.runningrawaroundaustralia.com).

Picture: Morris Lieberman

## Triple treat for our netballers



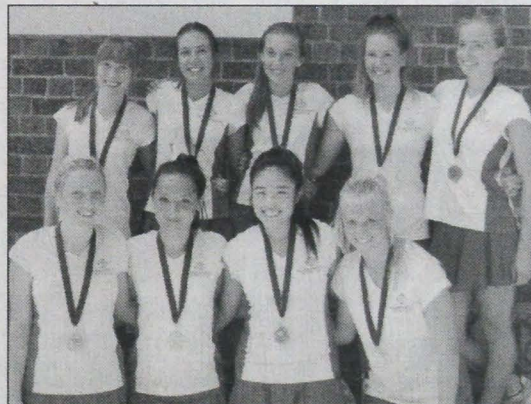
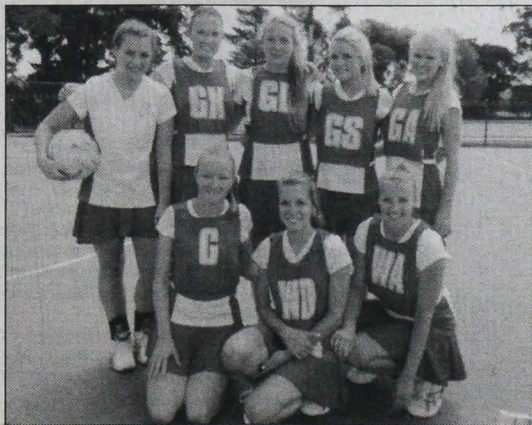
### WARRANTYTE NETBALL CLUB

WARRANTYTE netball has finished another season with 21 teams playing in the spring competition.

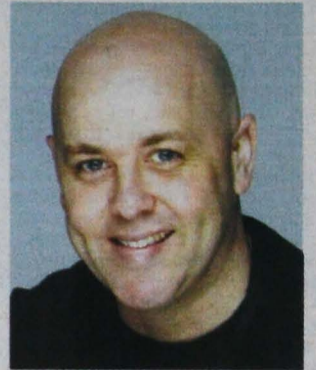
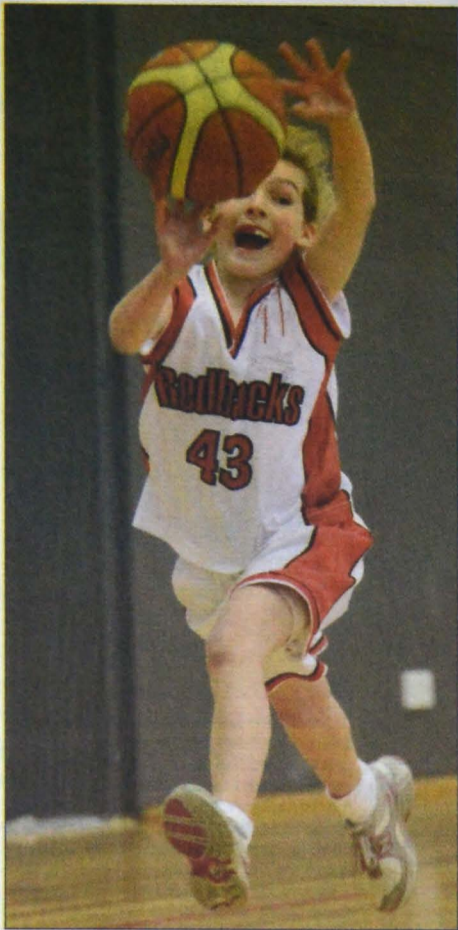
The Under 13/3 Stingers, U17/1 Jaguars, and Open B Tigers all managed to steamroll the opposition to be undefeated the entire season, while 10 teams all made it through to at least semi finals.

Those teams (with coaches names) were: U13/1 Wasps, coached by Michelle Potter; U13/2 Bullants, Ysabel Galley; U13/3 Stingers, Michelle Murray and Meaghan Cross; U13/3 Grasshoppers, Jane Link; U15/1 Pythons, Jessica Dusting and Josie Ward; U17/1 Jaguars, Stephanie Natsis; U17/1 Eagles, Megan Seymour; U17/2 Toucans, Lisa Gates; Open A Falcons, Natalie Dusting; and Open B Tigers, Lindsay Woods.

Grand final results: U13/3 Stingers 25 defeated Eltham 21; U13/3 Grasshoppers 9 lost to East Doncaster 35; U15/1 Pythons 29 lost to Deep Creek 31; U17/1 Jaguars 31 defeated Donvale 20; Open A Falcons 26 lost to Donvale 29; Open B Tigers 42 defeated Deep Creek 13.



# Every picture



**SCOTT PODMORE**  
Diary sports editor

IF every picture is worth 1000 words, then I'd better grab my excellent team of *Diary* sports contributors and close up shop – especially when we're lucky enough to have local photographers including Gareth "Dicko" Dickson, Ross "Snowy" Snowball and several others who take the time and effort to send in their picks of the pack for the sports section each month.

Having worked with plenty of professional photographers over the years, these guys can cut it with the best of them. You only need look at the collection on these pages of some of the year's best sports shots in Warrandyte and district.

It's a real bonus for me – and *Diary* readers – that we get to share in those terrific moments, all captured in one swift click of their Canons.

From footy to basketball, netball to dance, cricket, tennis and everything in between, we're lucky to have the opportunities to participate in these sports, many of which have tireless workers giving up their time behind the scenes to make them tick every week. The roles vary and include such tasks as taking minutes at meetings, coaching, timekeeping, umpiring, washing uniforms, manning a kiosk, or being responsible for equipment and venues.

Those sports organisations and clubs also have great people who give up their time to contribute sports reports to the *Diary* every month and I take this opportunity to thank them all, including those who contribute photographs. Thanks also to our readers who get a kick out of seeing their name, or their child's or grandchild's or a friend's, mentioned in the *Diary*, and who also enjoy and appreciate the moment when they see a photograph that's worth a 1000 words. It often stirs the senses.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We'll see you again in the first edition of the *Diary* in February 2013.



## It's all in the Jenes as players

By **TONY OLIVER**

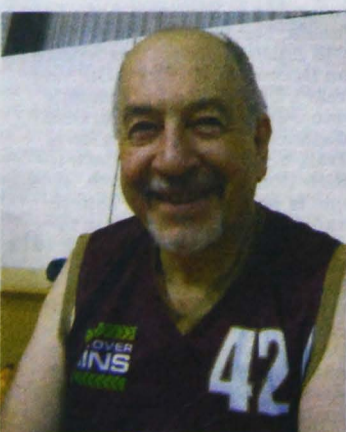
ROLL up to watch any of the district's Redbacks or Venom stars these days and you will notice they come in all shapes and sizes – and ages. From six year olds learning the craft right up to seasoned veterans, anyone can enjoy a game of basketball. Just ask Paul Jenes who recently turned 70. "I remember watching Don Lane and he was as fit as ever and still playing when he turned 50," Paul said recently at the Warrandyte Sports Centre. "And I said to myself that I wanted to do the same. "I was playing at Nunawading and then my neighbour over the road got me playing at Warrandyte. "And I have been here for 20 years."

Paul has enjoyed a long and varied career, including captaining Australia's successful Over 65 team at the world titles in Sydney. He also has scored many achievements in Australian Masters. "I'm still playing," he told the *Diary*. "I'm thinking of the next Australian Masters event that's on in Geelong next October." "Jenesy", as he is known to mates, is a multi-talented individual, playing, refereeing and also working in administration in the basketball competition. His birthday was a couple of Mondays back and his daughter Lizzy's birthday was the next day. The Warrandyte basketball fraternity knows Lizzy as a former Redbacks player and coach.

### Saturday action heats up

On a hot Saturday recently basketball continued with modified timing rules where necessary. Warrandyte's Under 16 B Boys had a courageous win over a visiting Eltham side in one of the later games. "We were undersized but were able to maintain coolness when it counted," coach Mandy Ratcliffe said after the game. The Redbacks' shooting percentage was back up after a disappointing performance the previous week. The final score was 23-12 after a 14-8 lead at the break. Jack Orange, who recently joined the club, top scored with 10, with solid support from Darcy Trenfield and Riley Sproule-Carrol.

The U16 Boys game between Balwyn and Warrandyte was a thriller at WSC. In a close contest the Redbacks opened a six-point lead with just over two and a half minutes to go and it seemed enough to go on with the job. But Balwyn obviously disagreed and after two quick goals the game was all tied up with 12.6 seconds left on the clock. Rapid transition had Warrandyte's Ashlei Haywood working through heavy traffic to get the ball over to Jamie Earle who put the ball into the ring as the siren sounded for an exciting 22-20 win. Hayward scored 12 points, including two threes in the second. Earle contributed six with two coming from William Carter and Zachary Foster-Zuluaga.



Still loving the game: Paul Jenes.

# tells a story



# of all ages love their basketball

The U20 Boys clash between Warrandyte and Eltham was also a nail-biting contest.

Warrandyte only had four players and was one point up with just under a minute to go in the first half. While they won the previous week's match with only four players, sadly that outcome could not be repeated with Eltham snatching the lead at the break and controlling the game in the second half to take the points 37-24.

For the Redbacks, Tim Ernshaw top scored with 11, Klint White, eight, and Joshua Long, five.

Earlier in the day, Warrandyte's U10 AR boys paid for a slow start, going down to Bulleen's top side by 21-29.

The Redbacks were out of it at the

break trailing 15-3 and even after scoring the opening points of the second half, it seemed like a mountain to climb. But goals followed for the Redbacks and Bulleen's scoring dried up as they wondered what hit them.

With just over three minutes to go, Warrandyte equalised and a boilover was on the cards. Both sides had chances at each end, but Bulleen was able to get critical points on the board in the last two minutes of play.

Coach Dale Leeson encouraged his U10 sharpshooters after the game: "It was a nice comeback in the second half, boys, you are competitive with sides like that," he told the troops. "Believe in yourselves."

For the Redbacks, Jed Aitken top

scored with eight and Marcus Green managed six.

Danny Black's U12 B Boys were overrun in the end, losing 28-24 to Bulleen. William Thomas contributed six points, with four coming from Connor Morphett, Dylan MacDonald and Leo Garrick.

The reverse happened for Danny McShang's U12 B Boys, who came from behind to take the points against Collingwood 20-18. Finlay Swedosh scored seven and Harry Canty, four.

**Friday night thrillers**  
The first phase of championship basketball is almost complete where crossover games will define the final make up of the pools for the next cycle.

Warrandyte's U16 Girls finished top

of their pool after completing a 46-40 win over Waverley in the second last game at Warrandyte Sports Centre.

The team will return to Pool AA in the New Year, with a reasonable chance of making VC in 2012.

For the Venom in the Waverley game, Natalie MacDonald led the scoring with 16, with 10 coming from Hayley McIntyre and six from Lexie Hipwell.

In an earlier game, Emma Collins' Pool 2 U12 Girls went down 28-18 to competition leaders Whittlesea. The scores were locked at the final change but the visitors won the final quarter 14-4 to take the points.

Alicia Callahan top scored with seven and Eleanor Bolland's landed three.

Vicki Shaw's team did all the hard

work in the U18 Girls clash against Bacchus Marsh, except win the game. They led most of the match in a close encounter.

The margin was 20-14 to the Venom at the final change. But as it tightened up, the crowd was hoping the girls had done enough after Katelyn Ramsay extended the margin to three points from the free throw line with just under two minutes to go.

The sides had opportunities at both ends but the Venom was trapped in its back court and unable to get over the halfway line. A turnover to the Bacchus Marsh centre was enough for her to put the ball in the ring to even the scores with no time left on the clock.

Katelyn Ramsay top scored with 12 for Warrandyte.

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From all of the staff at....



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